

## A GREAT POLITICAL SATIRE

"THE ANIMAL FARM," by George Orwell (pub. Harcourt Brace and Company, N. Y. \$2.95) called "one of the great political satires of our times," by Christopher Morley, is the wonderfully droll story of the revolt of a group of farm animals from their human masters.

The animals set up a socialist state of their own which is going to be a great improvement over former conditions. Their foremost slogan is "All Animals Are Equal." Then comes the need to administer the state themselves. For the state to succeed, the animals must continue to work. But many of them do not want to work.

There is disagreement, too, at the top, on policy, so intrigue develops. The pigs, who have taken the leadership, use the young dogs for strong armed work, and the sheep for repeating slogans mindlessly to take the minds of the listeners off the business in hand—which is "who shall really rule." Soon, the old slogan of "All Animals Are Equal" is slightly altered to read "But Some Are More Equal Than Others." This paves the way for a new class system. It is all immensely clever and a superb take-off on the Russian Communist system.—(J. SCHUYLER, New York, N. Y.).

## A NOVEL OF ALABAMA LIFE

The eternal triangle is the theme of Paul Darcy Boles' second novel, "The Beggars in the Sun" (McMillan, 1954, \$3), and the setting is Alabama. Carp Rambo, an out-of-pocket guitar-playing singer of folk songs, sets out to find a hound dog for his wife, Suzy Ellen, and winds up in adultery with Ellen Hattram, the wife of a wealthy and testy Dixie aristocrat.

Thereafter, things move at a normal Southern pace to the inevitable showdown. One cannot care much for the beggars as characters, but Boles' picture of Rambo is an excellent treatment of the type of man who rationalizes his taste for extra-marital affairs.—(HENRY F. WINSLOW, Brooklyn, N. Y.).



# BOOK REVIEWS

by  
**GERTRUDE MARTIN**

Perhaps the fact that two forthcoming September books by well-known Negro authors are based on their trips to Africa has some significance in the case of Richard Wright. His "Black Power" will be published by Harper and Brothers on September 22, it was a voyage from Liverpool to the Gold Coast of Africa. Era Bell Thompson, who has written "Africa, Land of My Fathers," visited 18 countries in Africa and gives her impressions. Her book will be published by Doubleday and Company on September 23. Richard Wright's earlier books, among them "Native Son" and "Black Boy," are well known. Miss Thompson is perhaps best known as an editor of Ebony and for numerous articles therein. She has written one other book, "American Daughter," which was published in 1946.

## SEGREGATION AND THE SCHOOLS

At least two current magazines have devoted some space in their September issues to the question of Negroes entering schools from which they very recently were barred. In this month's Harper's, Arthur D. Morse writes of Negroes entering in 1952 a public junior college in Corpus Christi, Tex. There were no major problems, and despite the apprehensiveness of the faint of heart, no real difficulty.

In its issue for September 13 Newsweek features on its cover a story called "End of Segregation: The First Test." Most of it is devoted to a discussion of Washington, D. C.'s plan for desegregating its schools.

## 'THE GREAT DECISION'

While we're on the subject of segregation and the schools it is well to mention an excellent article by L. D. Reddick, "The Great Decision," in Phylon for

the second quarter 1954. Mr. Reddick discusses the impact of the Supreme Court's unanimous decision outlawing segregation in the schools of the nation. He has this to say of Negroes' reaction to the momentous ruling: "Surprisingly, the reaction of Negroes to the decision has been rather timid. Where are the shouts of victory, the hilarious celebrations, the parades, the fireworks? A Joe Louis victory used to cause much more of a stir in Harlem or the South-side."

## WILLIE MAYS AGAIN

The Negro is getting his share of space in the big circulation magazines these days — and a good thing too. Tallulah Bankhead has written and exuberant paean to Willie Mays in Look for September 21. It is called "What Is So Rare as A Willie Mays."

The same issue of Look has an article, "Must Our Teachers Be Underprivileged," by the ubiquitous Arthur Godfrey. It is a plea for much needed raises for our hard-working but underpaid teachers.

## 'THE BROWN MAN'S BURDEN ANALYZED'

The above is the title of an important article by Chester Bowles in the New York Times Magazine for September 5. In it Mr. Bowles points out that Asia needs to expend greater effort to understand the West. Mr. Bowles, who was Ambassador to India from 1951-1953, underlines some of the difficulties in understanding between East and West. On race relations he writes in part:

"Although we have made rapid progress in improving race relations in the last few years, Asians are still on solid ground in criticizing America for discriminating against its Negro minority. But surprisingly few Indians see any similarity between Negro segregation in America and the practice of caste segregation and discrimination in India, which is so deeply shocking to most Westerners. It is time that each tried to understand the other's problems, and assist, not carp at, the other's efforts to meet them."

# BOOK REVIEWS

by  
**GERTRUDE MARTIN**

"The Negro and the Schools" by Harry S. Ashmore is a summary of the findings of fifty-five scholars in the field of bi-racial education in the United States. The studies were financed by the Fund for the Advancement of Education and three books based on the findings are planned. The present short volume was published May 15, only a day before the Supreme Court decision outlawing segregation was handed down. This outrageously bad luck in publication date has been corrected by the appearance of a revised edition which brings the book up to date and includes the full text of the decision.

"The Negro and the Schools" traces the development of bi-racial education in this country as well as the history of the legal assaults made upon it. The first of these came in Boston in 1849 in Roberts vs. the city of Boston and the famous abolitionist Charles Sumner was the lawyer of record.

This Boston decision although later set aside by law in Massachusetts provided a precedent in the non-South. In 1896 came the Plessy vs. Ferguson case in Louisiana which attacked the Louisiana statute requiring separation of the races on trains within the state.

Between 1896 and 1930 only three cases involving Negro education came before the Supreme Court but none of this directly challenged segregation. Changes began to come in the thirties however and the liberal atmosphere of the Roosevelt administration the pressure of population in the South and the depression combined to make the problem of more acute. In 1935 came the bi-racial education in general Murray case which resulted in the

Maryland Court of Appeals ruling that Murray be admitted to the state law school.

The author discusses bi-racial education in the non-South where only fairly recently in communities in Arizona, New Jersey, Indiana and Illinois segregation is on the way out.

There is an interesting chapter on Washington and its segregated schools which tells of the discrepancies in funds present for Negro and white pupils (\$273. to \$212). and the efforts which have been made to keep the schools separate there in the face of rapidly shifting population.

For the South Mr. Ashmore states that change is inevitable and was before the Court ruling which will of course accelerate the process. Since residential segregation is more strictly observed in the urban South than the North it is unlikely that appreciable change will come in the schools for a long time. In the rural south the demand by Negroes for admission has always been weakest and the pressure against it strongest and "there is no reason to believe that a policy of free choice between all-white and all-Negro schools would not produce the same result in most Southern school districts."

In conclusion Mr. Ashmore writes: "In the long sweep of history the abandonment of Plessy by the Supreme Court may be written down as the point at which the South cleared the last turning point in the road to reunion — the point at which finally and under protest the region gave up its peculiar institutions and accepted the prevailing standards of the nation at large as the legal basis for its relationship with its minority race."

"The Negro and the Schools" by Harry S. Ashmore; The University of North Carolina Press; Chapel Hill, North Carolina; 1954

## Clark Professor Is Author Of Top Magazine Article

M. Clark Holman, Clark College professor is author of a story, "The Riot on Carroll Street" published in the September Charm magazine. Mr. Holman has been on leave

from Clark and recently received the M. F. A. degree in drama from Yale, where in 1953, one of his plays was awarded the Blevins Davis Prize. Other of his works have been adapted for television and radio.

Charm pictures Mr. and Mrs. Holman (the former, Mariella Ama), their three children, Kerry, Karen and Kent, and states that the talented author, (holder of Rosenwald, John Hay Whitney fellowships and a grant from Canada Lee Foundation) has spent the summer working on a novel and will return to Clark this school year.

## Veteran writes book on underseas world

NEW YORK — Walter Wiggins Jr., who fought with the 92nd Division in Italy in World War II, is the author of "Dreams in Reality of the Undersea Craft," scheduled for publication this month.

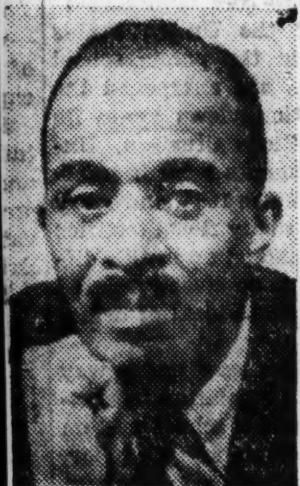
The work is an account of the past, present and future of the underseas world with its hidden natural resources, sunken ships, lost treasures and human life exposed to danger.



# Books of The Times

By ORVILLE PRESCOTT

THE future of much of mankind probably will be settled in India soon, perhaps within the next ten years. If India can remain a free nation with a democratic form of government that seems to be bringing tangible benefits to her citizens, her example will carry enormous weight throughout the rest of Asia. If India should succumb to the Communist



Saunders Redding

virus, the disaster would be as great or greater than China's descent into the totalitarian night. The danger of such a calamity is greater than most well-informed Americans realize, says Saunders Redding in his "An American In India." In India it is much later than we think. In the summer of 1952 Saunders Redding traveled extensively in India, from Bombay to Calcutta, from Travencore to Darjeeling. He delivered lectures, sometimes as many as four a day, answered questions and talked to hundreds of Indians. His mission was to make friends for America and to report at the request of the State Department. Mr. Redding was well qualified for his task. He is a teacher at an American college. He is the able author of a number of superior books about American life and the American past. And he is a Negro. His race was important and it makes his book important.

## His Contacts Were Candid

The color of Mr. Redding's skin served as a passport to the confidences of many Indians, "colored people in a colored country" who are obsessed by color. They talked to him frankly and intimately, and also with frightening ignorance and sinister bitterness.

Most of the people Mr. Redding met were intellectuals, writers, journalists, Government officials, college teachers and students. Many were intelligent, informed and reasonable. Mr. Redding made friendships that he values. But many more of the Indians he met were warped by misinformation and prejudice. Sensitive, proud, bitter and resentful, they regard the United States as evil and any American idea, policy or individual with dark suspicion. Part of this, Mr. Redding believes, is explainable in terms of political history and the psychology of a subject people uncertain of a newly won inde-

**"AN AMERICAN IN INDIA: A Personal Report on the Indian Dilemma and the Nature of Her Conflicts. By Saunders Redding. 277 Pages. Robb's, Mass. 65 50**

pendence. But much of it is the result of skillful Communist propaganda and much of it is expressed by dedicated Communists.

Everywhere he went Mr. Redding met Indians who assumed India's moral superiority and the "moral degeneracy" of the United States. They believed that Joe McCarthy spoke for the entire population, that American foreign aid was only a pretense masking sinister imperialist plots, that America wanted war, that "The Grapes of Wrath" was a faithful account of conditions in all America as they are today and that Negroes were continually lynched and that some of them were still enslaved. When Mr. Redding described the enormous progress made by American Negroes he was openly doubted. He was charged with being paid to say what he did not believe.

## Indians Conscious of Color

"Many Indians," says Mr. Redding, "were color-conscious to a degree completely unimaginable even to American Negroes. It seemed impossible for these Indians to conceive of a dark-skinned American as being other than the enemy of white, or of having a loyalty that goes beyond color. I was asked more than once whether the Negro community of America would join with the colored peoples of the world in a war against the white man."

Saunders Redding tried to travel in India in a spirit of detached intellectual curiosity. As an American Negro he was only too painfully aware of some of the vulnerable aspects of our society. He had written critical books about American treatment of Negroes. But as an intelligent observer of American life he valued the freedom of our democracy and was grateful for the substantial improvement in race relations that has taken place in recent years. Consequently, when he found himself continually on the defensive, continually trying to refute false charges, he felt his identity as an American strengthened and his affection for his native land increased.

"An American In India" is not an angry attack on current Indian ways of thinking. Mr. Redding has not answered bitterness with bitterness. His book is a lively documentation of a condition that must be understood if it is to be combated. Mr. Redding is a patient and understanding man. He knows that much of the intolerance and suspicion he met was not inspired by malice, but by ignorance. But as long as the intolerance and suspicion are typical of Indian thought the danger to India and the world remains. The Communists, who are adroit at all sorts of propaganda, are particularly adroit at capitalizing on intolerance and suspicion.

In addition to its topical interest, "An American In India" is a brisk and well-written travel book much enlivened by many expert thumbnail sketches of the people Mr. Redding met on his strenuous journey.

# BOOK REVIEWS

by  
GERTRUDE MARTIN  
Chicago, Ill.

The London Times in its September 17 issue included a special Literary Supplement of 100 pages devoted to American Writing today. It is a highly competent job and for several weeks we have been trying to do justice to it here and to read as much of it as possible. It is impossible to do justice to it here because of range of subjects the Times covers. Certainly, anyone at all interested in the literary life in this country will find much that is profitable and provocative in this supplement.

The article called Negro Writing offers a fresh look at Negro authors and writing. Although we would not agree with all its author's conclusions most of the points it makes are valid. There is the old contention here that the Negro's "sense of life, his job, his inspiring gift of song" are innate.

Negro poetry this article states, is largely imitative and not very good. The author singles out Dunbar's writing, Langston Hughes blues, Sterling Brown's ballads, and a few poems by James Weldon Johnson and Countee Cullen as exceptions.

Negro prose rates higher in this writer's opinion because it "does not demand that delicate ingrained sensibility" which poetry does. Even the early works of William Wells Brown and Charles W. Chestnut have much to recommend them.

The author praises Zora Neale Hurston's novel and Claude McKay's writing, Langston Hughes' "Not Without Laughter" and Arna Bontemps' "God Sends Sunday" and Waters E. Turpin's "These Low Grounds." (Incidentally, what has happened to Mr. Turpin?)

The article has harsh things to say of Frank Yerby of whom the author writes: "There is no one else in recent years who affords quite such a dramatic example of the rewards of writing

badly." It was only a year after Mr. Yerby won the O. Henry Memorial Award for a fine short story "Health Card," that the first of his novels, "The Foxes of Harrow," appeared and to a great extent his situation is representative of our time."

The writer points to the fact that the critic discussing the work of a Negro writer "feels that he ought to show his friendliness, his sympathy and his essential liberal-mindedness toward the Negro cause by suspending his normal standards of judgement. If he does not, and, instead, attempts to judge by the highest aesthetic standards, he knows that although the Negro is rather less touchy in these matters than the Jew in America, he is likely to be accused of discriminatory practices."

In the future, the term American Negro literature may be an anachronism when integration of the Negro into American life is complete.

There are at least two important omissions from the list of authors discussed here: James Baldwin and Ralph Ellison. Both have writing of distinction to their credit and, perhaps more than any others, represent the Negro writer of the future.



## ENTERTAINING REFERENCE

## Fine New Atlas

## Took Six Years

HAMMOND'S AMBASSADOR WORLD ATLAS. Maplewood, N.J. C. S. Hammond & Co. 416 pages, 326 maps, illustrations, indexed. \$12.50.

Publishers of this magnificent new book have expressed a belief that this is the most comprehensive atlas ever published in America. They are probably right.

Not only is it a fine, solid reference book with its profusion of full color maps, it is also a genuine entertaining book. Features contributing to the pleasure of thumbing through the atlas include its stratosphere-view maps of the earth; air age and polar area maps and the unusual resource-relief maps.

An index of more than 100,000 entries, with descriptive

paragraphs on approximately 2,500 principal cities is listed as an exclusive feature.

In compiling the latest accurate information for the atlas, the editors ran into particular difficulties when it came to Russia and other Iron Curtain countries. Many new buildings in Moscow were specifically located, the editors said, through the cooperation of an American who had visited there recently. A Russian refugee who came to the Hammond Map Co. with a postwar map of the Soviet Union printed by a Russian military agency, helped secure other Soviet data. A Hammond cartographer happened to be a White Russian and he checked the map and closed the deal.

It took six years and a cash outlay of \$650,000 to complete the atlas.

## Two Of Every Three Negroes Attend Church

By RICHARD A. JACKSON  
NEW YORK—The 1953 Yearbook of American Churches reveals a record membership. The book, scheduled for publication September 25, indicates that six of every ten persons in this country are enrolled in some religious denomination. The book is compiled by the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. and edited by Dr. Benson Y. Landis.

Figures from the book disclose that 9,451,983 persons are enrolled in five predominantly Negro denominations. Another 1,500,000 of the race are estimated to be in other denominations. Thus it is indicated that more than ten million Negroes in America belong to church, or approximately two out of every three.

The 1953 membership figures show the following enrollments for the five denominations:

National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc., 4,526,847; National Baptist Convention of America, 2,606,510; African Methodist Episcopal, 1,166,301; African Methodist Episcopal Zion, 760,158; Colored Methodist Episcopal, 392,167.

The country's church population of nearly 95,000,000 includes 55,000,000 Protestants, 31,000,000 Roman Catholics and 5,000,000 Jews. The Methodist denomination ranks first among individual Protestant denominations, 9,151,524; second Southern Baptist Convention, 7,883,708; third, N.B.C.; sixth Protestant Episcopal, 2,550,831; seventh, Presbyterian, 2,492,504.

## American Jewry Since 1654

THE JEWS IN AMERICA: A History.

By Rufus Lears. 382 pp. Cleveland: The World Publishing Company. \$6.

ADVENTURE IN FREEDOM.

By Oscar Handlin. 282 pp. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company. \$3.75.

Reviewed by  
MARVIN LOWENTHAL

THREE hundred years ago, the first Jews to settle in what has become the United States sailed into the harbor of New York—or rather New Amsterdam. Appropriate to the tercentennial celebration of this event, two volumes are now off the press which relate the history of the American Jews over the subsequent centuries—and what it has meant for themselves and for their country. The authors treat the subject in a different manner and for a different purpose, but they complement each other; and, between them, they fairly encompass the field.

Mr. Lears presents the story in the conventional form of history books, with details, names and dates in chronological sequence. He begins with "the first European" who trod the soil of the New World—a converted Jew, Luis de Torres, who served Columbus, quite uselessly no doubt, as interpreter to the Indians. He tells of the early Jewish settlements in the West Indies and South America, and then of the handful of the refugees who fled from Brazil in 1654 and landed at the mouth of the Hudson. He then traces the trickle of Jews—from various European lands but predominantly Spanish-Portuguese in origin—who helped swell the stream of American Colonial history and who helped win the privileges and responsibilities of American democracy.

He describes the two great migrations of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries: first from Germany, and then from Eastern Europe. The twenty-three Jews who docked at New Amster-

dam in 1654 grew through immigration and natural increase to about five million in 1953. The part they have played in the material and spiritual development of the United States is given due attention, as well as the contributions they have made to Jewish history through their peculiarly Americanized institutions and religious movements. They gave substance to a modern type of Judaism—Reform Judaism; and, as the result of the two world wars, they were the mainstay in salvaging the wreck of European Jewry.

Although the most replete to date, Mr. Lears's volume cannot constitute the full story of American Jewry, for too many of the facts remain to be uncovered. Until American Jews provide the means for a comprehensive research into their own past, historians must be content with meagerly repeating one another.

Prof. Handlin, on the other hand, has written not so much a history of American Jewry as a discourse on that history. While touching upon enough facts to orient the cursory or even the informed reader, he stresses the significance of the Jewish experience. What, he seeks to answer, do the centuries of American Jewish history add up to as a social and cultural phenomenon? The nub of his answer may perhaps be found in his concluding words: "Diversity, voluntarism, equality, freedom and democracy—these were the products of three centuries of experience in America. In their attainment, the Jews shattered the closed ghettos of the Old World and replaced them with voluntary communities of free men, governing themselves in accord with their own interests." Readers may disagree with many turns in the unfoldment of Prof. Handlin's argument; they may feel especially that he underplays the achievements of European Jewries in the realm of freedom and democracy; they may question his premises by which gains and losses in Jewish life are reckoned; but they will be indebted to him for a stimulating discussion.

Marvin Lowenthal is the author of "The Jews of Germany: A Story of Sixteen Centuries," and "A World Passed By," which deals at length with Jewish symbolism.

## Book Praises God-Fearing Slaves

LYNCHBURG, Va. — (ANP) — Negro slaves who put their trust in God and who relied on prayer and faith in God in one of the darkest periods in American history were praised in an article in the November issue of "The Expectation," by Thomas L. Dabney. Title of the article is "Christian Education." Dabney said of the slaves: "The slaves who had no money, no book learning, and no property were nevertheless so powerful because of their simple faith in God and their wise resort to prayer that they, and not the armies on the battlefields in the Civil War, determined along with God the outcome of that crucial period in American history."

"They did not have the embellishments of a Christian education—and elegant phrases—but they had faith, a deep longing to be free and the patience to wait on God..." the article says.

The November Expected also carries an interesting and revealing editorial by Dr. M. C. Allen, editor-founder of the publication on

"The Dreamer And His Dream." He was the late Prof. Gregory Willis Hayes, second president Virginia Theological seminary and college, whose memory will be celebrated on Dec. 1 when the annual Hayes day program will be held at the school.

The author of the "Christian Education" article is the grandson of slaves. He had an uncle who ran from slavery to freedom and became an ardent leader in Christian work, especially the program of the Sunday school. This uncle, the late Miles Maxfield, Washington, D. C., became a tract author, Sunday school teacher and staunch advocate of clean Christian living.



# Communists by Dos Passos

**MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED.** By John Dos Passos. Prentice-Hall. \$3.50.

By Harold Clurman

IN "U. S. A." John Dos Passos was able to combine a picaresque chronicle of an epoch with various forms of expressionistic journalism and compose them into a sort of garish and melancholy jazz which was both significant and poetic. In "Most Likely to Succeed" he confines himself to a segment of the semi-intellectual bohemia of the theater and motion-picture world between 1926 and 1941. The basic material is interesting, but the novel is not. In fact, "Most Likely to Succeed" is a wretched piece of work. It achieves nothing.

The book might be said to resemble a scratchily written Lillian Ross type of "profile" which would be rejected by the *New Yorker*. Though its central figure is a phony, a mental incompetent, and a moral castrate, "Most Likely to Succeed" cannot even be called venomous. It is merely libelous.

Dos Passos was an intimate of the group he attempts to delineate. The clues are too clear for the reader acquainted with the theater of the late twenties not to recognize in the "Craftsman's Theater" the short-lived organization known as the New Playwrights—which produced several of Dos Passos's plays. Some of these "revolting playwrights"—as Woolcott once dubbed them—were, according to Dos Passos, Communists even in the twenties; some of them were browbeaten into becoming Communists; all of them were aesthetic or social rebels.

What Dos Passos tries to indicate is that the outstanding figure among them—a playwright whom he calls J. E. D. Morris—was a frustrated character, in every way somewhat less than half a man, impelled to compensate for all his shortcomings by a greediness for success on the most trivial level. This hunger for success makes him a victim of nefarious idiots who first trap him into joining the Communist Party and then hogtie him so that he is forced to jilt his

"favorite" mistress on the ground that she is suspected by the comrades of being a federal agent.

The trouble with all this—apart from the fact that there is not a living character in the story—is that its people are vermin and therefore hardly typical of anything. (When Dostoevsky turned against the "revolutionary" friends of his youth in "The Possessed" he wrote a distorted masterpiece of immense psychological depth and satiric power.) It should be a literary axiom that the transformation of an ordinary louse into a Communist louse is nothing to write about.

The men whom Dos Passos has pasted together into his J. E. D. Morris were real people, in some cases genuinely gifted, worth-while people. That they were confused and neurotic was not the most serious of their faults; they suffered chiefly from spiritual and cultural immaturity which made some of them Communists—and others professional anti-Communists. The American Communist movement among the intelligentsia always betrayed a singular lack of intelligence. And though its adherents never realized it, which was one symptom of its obtuseness, it hardly ever had any political meaning or weight.

It was an emotional movement which attracted to begin with all sorts of rebels against the religion of the dollar, Babbitry, and crass commercialism. The disoriented, lonely, and wounded people who felt deceived by most of their customary beliefs—or never had really developed any—were seeking a spiritual home, a faith. They yearned for substantial instead of rhetorical values, they hoped for social unity instead of anarchy, they wanted inspiration not ballyhoo.

In this respect they were good people in the soundest American tradition. That they were usually political boobs and cultural babies did not make them any less pathetic and human than hundreds of thousands of non-Communist Americans. That some of those who joined the movement were power hungry with Führer complexes, as well as moral snobs or perverts, hardly differentiates

them from many members of more orthodox political groups. That so sensitive a man as Dos Passos should have missed the point only means that, after all these years, this is where we came in.

## The Reason Why

Alan Paton, the distinguished South African author of the best-seller, "Cry, the Beloved Country" has done a magnificent piece in the current issue of Collier's Magazine on the "Colored Man in America Today."

It is reminiscent of Gunnar Myrdal's tremendous two-volume work, "The American Dilemma." It is the kind of a writing you would expect of a sensitive and impartial foreigner, who dispassionately views the American scene without prejudice.

With reference to churches, however, Mr. Paton raised one question to which he did not find the answer.

He says, "the whole church situation is . . . complicated by the fact that the colored man, who has fought so hard to enter the Army, the college, the school, the bus, the restaurant, the theatre, shows no desire to enter the predominantly white church."

We are glad to tell Mr. Paton why.

All of the institutions he mentions are public institutions, supported by taxpayers' money or operating under a public license.

Colored people maintain that restaurants, hotels and theatres open to do business with the public must serve all the public. They should be as free for the use of everyone as the public streets.

We have no desire, and we have never claimed that private homes, clubs or churches should be open to everybody.

A man's home or his club is his castle. He invites whom he pleases to enter.

We agree with Dr. Channing Tobias that colored churches are born of a double rejection; they were rejected by the white churches, and in their turn they rejected a Christianity that seemed so false to the teachings of its Lord.

But even Mr. Paton has seen the change in the life and direction of the Christian church in America.

"In the last few years the Catholic Church," he says, "has shown the greatest will to be more obedient to the will of God than she had been."

It is this great church that has led the way in opening its doors to all races.

Except in Maryland, Washington, and North Carolina, almost every Quaker school and meeting house is open to all comers.

## Human Relations Aids For Teachers

Teachers and educators have a responsibility like other community leaders to help close the gap brought about as a result of the discrepancy between democratic principles and actual practices.

There are many aids which will help teachers to give the facts about our prejudices, how proper attitudes may be built and how to promote better inter-group attitudes. There are blueprints for teachers to follow as they work with children. Some of the methods that may be used are reading, discussion, films, pictures, trips, plays and having visitors in the classroom.

Some of the booklets and pamphlets on inter-group education range from the kindergarten to the high level.

**BOOKS AND PHAMPHLETS**  
**INTERGROUP EDUCATION IN KINDERGARTEN — PRIMARY GRADES** by Stendler and Martin, Macmillan Co., 1953.

Beauchamp, Llewellyn, and Worley. **BUILDING BROTHERHOOD: WHAT CAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS DO?** by National Conference of Christians and Jews: Chicago, 1952.

**PROMISING PRACTICES IN INTERGROUP EDUCATION** by Edman and Collins Bureau for Intercultural Education: New York, 1947.

**IMPROVING HUMAN RELATIONS — SUGGESTIONS TO GUIDE ALL SCHOOL PROGRAM** — Curriculum Bulletin, Vol. 4 No. 7, Milwaukee Public Schools—1947.

**ELEMENTARY CURRICULUM IN INTERGROUP RELATIONS: Case Studies in Instruction.** American Council on Education, Washington, D. C., 1950.



# The Week's Books

Edited by George S. Schuyler

## Hawaiian Folk Tale

"THE Hidden Village" (Longmans, Green and Co, New York. \$2.50), by Keora Kono and Dorothy Mulgrave is a wonderful example of Pacific Islands folklore. It's a Hawaiian adventure story about Keo, dreamer and teller of tall tales.

Keo set out one night all alone to find out for himself if there were really a hidden village beyond the cocoanut forest where the little people dwelled. He does find the tiny village and is captured by the Menehune. His trial has an unusual ending.

This will be a children's favorite. Black and white illustrations are by Isami Kashiwagi.—GWENDOLYN WILLIAMS, Indianapolis, Indiana.

## Another African Novel

A first novel of merit is Johanna Moosdorf's "Flight to Africa" (Harcourt, Brace and Company, New York. \$3.50).

Africa was to have been an escape from the past for Suzanne Lebrun. It was so far away from her home and life in East Berlin . . . here she could make a new beginning. But it was not so. The past was so entangled with the present . . . and the sensual mysteries of this black continent sucked her in . . . that there was no future for her; she committed suicide with a native poison.

Her husband, Marcel, journeyed back to Germany to try to find the reason for her act. He thought perhaps she still loved a student, Richard Engelhardt. He went back to question the people they both had known. And Africa kept beckoning and so was Ngangala, a native girl who believed in dark things.

The characters for the most part are voluntarily wicked; Mechant especially so. It's a novel of horrors yet exciting.—GWENDOLYN WILLIAMS, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Oct. 10-23-54  
Novel of Negro Society

"False Measure," by Charles A. Smythwick Jr. (William Frederick Press, New York. \$3.50), tells us on the jacket that it is a satirical novel of the lives and objectives of upper, middle-class Negroes.

Mr. Smythwick has not, in my opinion, written a satire at all, but a straight and very in-

teresting piece of reporting. It is true that his cast of characters think a great deal about appearances and pleasure; and that they are Negroes mainly by accident or courtesy; and that they have little in common with the majority of working class Negroes. But then, if you put any class under the microscope you find that class interests are greater than those of so-called racial interests.

There is, in fact, no such thing as race, but there is class. That this class in the novel was "lighter" than the majority of people who are called Negroes, is an accident of Western history, where color and class became identifiable. In Japan, the ruling classes were darker than the Untouchables there who were the paler Ainu. So it goes in human affairs.

The upper class American Negro is almost identical with the upper class white; more money in the hands of the latter being about the only difference. Both are far distant in appearance and objectives from the average white and black sharecropper or domestic. However, since color prejudice here lumped all Negroes together, Negroes of the elite have had more problems to solve; that they have solved them as well as they have is remarkable.

This novel is honest enough to show that the upper class is decent, honorable and interesting. Joan Turner, the heroine, is worth reading about.—JOSEPHINE SCHUYLER, New York.

## Search for Truth

"Fools of the Earth," by Kirkland W. Green (Exposition Press, New York. \$3.50), is not long enough to adequately deal with the subject of "Truth" set by the author. Indeed, all the books in the world have not yet done it, so this small tome of 138 pages could hardly do so.

Gustave Flaubert once set himself the same task, but in novel form, of showing man's ridiculous errors. Flaubert died before the book was finished which was probably just as well. What is truth or error often depends upon the perspective. In the most advanced science the truth of a theory is never absolute.

On a plane of ethics, what is moral or immoral or immoral is determined by time, circumstance and the observer. The whole subject is so questionable that only a very brave man would attempt it.—JOSEPHINE SCHUYLER, New York, N. Y.



## Reading Material on Integration of Schools Listed By Urban League

The Urban League has received several requests from P. T. A. groups and interested individuals for materials dealing with the integration of public schools. The League does not have leaflets and pamphlets for general distribution, but the Community Relations Bureau, 425 New York Life Building, HA 5805 and the Kansas City Commission on Human Relations, 25th floor of the City Hall, BA 1400 do have limited quantities of materials on segregation and the schools.

Some recent materials on the subject are *July 11-22-54*  
 "Some Suggested Next Steps in Futherance of Desegregation in Education," a reprint of an article in the summer issue of the *Journal of Negro Education* by Lester Granger. Write the National Urban League, 1133 Broadway, New York 10, for a copy.

"Answers for Action: Schools in the South," issued by the Regional Council, 63 Auburn Avenue, N.E. Atlanta, Ga.

"Segregation and the Schools," Public Affairs Pamphlet No. 209. Twenty five cents. 22 East 38th St. New York.

"Integration of the Washington Schools," American Friends Service Committee, 104 C Street, N.E. Washington 2, D.C.

Southern School News, an official publication of the Southern Education Reporting Service, fact-finding agency established by southern newspaper editors and educators is aimed at providing accurate unbiased information to school administrators, public officials and interested lay citizens, on developments arising from the May 17 Supreme Court decision. Requests for the Southern School News which will be mailed free of charge should be sent to:

C. A. McKnight, Executive Director  
 Southern Education Reporting Service  
 1109 Nineteenth Avenue South  
 Nashville, Tennessee



# Book Review

By SAUNDERS REDDING

**DREAMS IN REALITY OF THE UNDERSEA CRAFT**, by Walter Wiggins Jr. Pageant Press, Inc., 130 West 42nd St., New York. 206 pp. \$3.00.

Ex-GI Walter Wiggins got interested in submarine life by reading a newspaper article — of the sort that the Sunday magazine sections of provincial newspapers carry — on the "Sunken City of Port Royal."



This half legendary city, rich and wicked as Babylon, was said to have disappeared into the sea just off Kingston, Jamaica, in 1692, following an earthquake and a tidal wave.

Mr. Wiggins' interest in Mr. Redding this city and its fate led him into a hobby—the hobby of inventing marine devices, among them an "automotive boat" which, the inventor believes, will prove itself to be the fastest thing on water.

*Walter Wiggins Jr.*  
 THE HOBBY led to writing about his hobby. The result is *Dreams in Reality of the Undersea Craft*, certainly the weirdest book this reviewer has laid eyes to since *The Mysteries of Udolpho* many a year back.

And weird in the same way — strange weird. *Dreams in Reality*, etc., is a mixture of truth and fiction, fantasy and fact, wish fulfillment and illusions of grandeur, dreams and reality.

It is, first of all, partly autobiographical—the author, for instance, calls himself by name—and it starts in a commonplace way.

Then it gets historical, and we have citations and quotations (at length) from documents pertaining to the history of Jamaica, the life of the buccaneer Sir Henry Morgan, various shipwrecks and salvages, and the sunken city of Port Royal.

*Pat Nov 27-57*  
 THEN IT leaps into the fantastic with dream sequences of a scientific city under the sea, with visions, with supernatural voices.

*Dreams in Reality*, etc., finally, is factual inasmuch as the scientific knowledge the author seems to bring to bear is knowledge in the real sense.

Indeed, the undersea craft, "The Salvaging Wiggs," that the hero invents, designs and builds sounds no more outlandish than the submarine of Jules Verne sounded to readers in the middle of the 19th century, and the adventures the hero has in it, are not so incredible as to overstrain active imagina-

tions — and particularly the imaginations of children, for whom, certainly, Mr. Wiggins wrote his book.

— o o o —

THE AUTHOR could not have supposed for a moment that the adult mind, for all the author's serious interest in submarine science, would be beguiled! But this reviewer could be wrong.

Unfortunately, Mr. Wiggins writes not only clumsily (the dialogue is as stiff and silly as starched feathers in a pillow) but badly.

Examples: "It is a possibility that when the diver dove ..." "Maybe he is trying to see by your reading this book if in some way it might help ..."

But such *gaucheries* will not bother the average youngsters. It is too bad, though, that they are there, for then even some semi-literate adults might read *Dreams in Reality*, etc., with the same sense of excitement and adventure with which they read Horror Comics and Superman.



26b 1954

# Books Out Today Southern Univ. Professors

## Non-Fiction

HIS VERY SELF AND VOICE  
edited by Ernest J. Love, Jr.  
(Macmillan, \$4.50). Conversations of Lord Byron, comment tomorrow.

TENZING OF EVEREST, by Yves BATON ROUGE, La. — Three Malartic (Crown, \$4). Tenzing Southern University Professors have articles listed in current issues of National magazines which will be reprinted in the Spring Edition of the Creative and Research Bulletin, published periodically by the University Press, according to J. B. Cade, Dean of the University.

WATERCOLORS BY ALBRECHT DÜRER, selected by Anna Maria Cetto (Macmillan, \$5.50). Thirty-two color plates.  
HONORE DAUMIER, by Claudesity Roger-Marx (Macmillan, \$2.95). Drawings and watercolors.

FRANCISCO JOSE DE GOYA Y LUCIENTES, by Robert Thomas Stott (Macmillan, \$2.95). Drawings.  
AMERICAN ART, by Werner Schmalenbach (Macmillan, \$12.50). Illustrated.

THE HIDDEN LIFE OF FLOWERS, by J. M. Guilcher (Philosophical Library \$4.75). With photographs by R. H. Neill.

AMISHLAND, by Kiehl and Christian Newswanger (Hastings House, \$5). Its customs and way of life, illustrated.

## Fiction

THE BEST SCIENCE-FICTION STORIES 1954, edited by Everett F. Bleiler and T. E. Dikty (Friedrick Fell, \$3.50).

## Write For National Magazines

Dr. Oliver Morse, Assistant Professor of Law, which was published in Vol. 7, Number 2 of the Journal of Legal Education, wrote an article on the question of "Adding Another Year to the Law School Curriculum." He states, "Undue emphasis is placed on the commonly called Dollars and Cents courses, those which supposedly pay off in general practice of law... to the detriment of the so-called cultural courses." Dr. Morse has another article which will be published in the forth coming issue of the Cleveland-Marshall Law School Review. This one deals with judges and their interpretation of the law and personality factors influencing either a liberal or strict application of the law.

Dr. Walter I. Murray, Professor of Sociology, wrote a CONFLICT AND TENSION AREAS. The article which was published in School and Society stated that many students fail to adjust to college work not because of their inability to learn but because of serious tensions which range from having to line-up for everything to waiting for the seven o'clock bus.

Dr. Maude Yancey, Professor of Health and Physical Education, has an article listed in the December Journal of Health and Physical Education in which she states that teachers of Health need more information on false beliefs in health that they themselves possesses and pass on to students. Dr. Yancey has listed several misconception of health; found, through a recent study made, that teachers harbor too much of the misconception themselves. The article is entitled WHAT TEACHERS NEED TO KNOW.



# THE BOOK SHELF

By MARCUS H. BOULWARE

**JADIE GREENWOOD**, a novel by I. S. Young, Crown Publishers, New York, 1947; 250 pages.

Queen Mary Stelson backed Jadie Greenwood into a corner in the basement of the public school to lecture her about Carmen Dore who had brought in a science report which Queen Mary had told the class not to do. Queen Mary was big and strong. Her huge shoulders spread from a mighty body and her arms were long and powerful. Jadie was much shorter. She was finely molded and she was slender. But there the contrast did not end. Queen Mary's face was a dark, highly polished brown. Jadie's was short, pale, almost transparently tawny, and finely chiseled. Jadie held her ground and let Queen Mary know that she didn't bother no one and no one was going to "mess wjd her."



DR. BOULWARE

grossly hammered into human contour. Jadie's was short, pale, almost transparently tawny, and finely chiseled. Jadie held her ground and let Queen Mary know that she didn't bother no one and no one was going to "mess wjd her."

But this was not the first nor the last time that Queen Mary tried to bully Jadie. And week after week, Queen Mary tried Jadie's patience until the smaller girl's switchblade knife sent Queen Mary to the hospital.

CUSTOMARILY each day upon arrival at home, Jadie went to her mother's room, took two dollars, and went down to Meyer's grocery store to buy food. Jadie always resettled her dress as she came to the landing, fixed her brassiere so her breasts would stand high and beckoning, ran her fingers down the sides of her dress and swung her hips once or twice. This always attracted the attention of young, male meddlers who never seemed to interest the girl.

Once when Artis Wright and his two pals were walking down the street, Jadie passed and Ar-

tis caught her by the arm and asked her for a date. Artis was not use to girls giving him "the brush-off", and he continued to try and press her in his arms. But Jadie smashed a cake she was eating in his face. This made Artis angry, and he slapped her. Jadie in her fury pulled her switchblade and caught the boy on the arm.

THE STORY takes a new turn when Mr. Chelton, a young college graduate, is assigned to teach at the school. Mr. Chelton was handsome, and all the girls were attracted to him. When he first came into Jadie's room to observe in Mrs. Lambert's class, Jadie was stirred by this strong, exciting young man. Once when he smiled at her, Jadie's pulse was faster and her breathing disturbed.

The reader is held in suspense when Jadie accused falsely Mr. Chelton of rape, and he is summoned to the principal's office. They knew the girl was lying, but unfortunately Althea, another pupil, had heard Mr. Chelton ask Jadie to come by his classroom at the end of school. How would they outsmart the girl whose story coincided in part with that of a pupil witness?

JADIE'S mother was a woman of the world, and she hustled, especially after her husband was forced to leave her. Several men who came to live in the house, eyed Jadie hungrily, but they "cut no ice wjd" Jadie. She knew how to take care of herself. Once the mother was summoned to the principal's office, because Jadie cut Queen Mary; and once the truant officer came to see the mother because Jadie failed to show up for school.

Calvin, a boarder, who liked Jadie once remarked about her: "She had a helluva life. She donno whut she wan cause she ain had nobody to hep her look for whut she wan or whut she kin get. She bin fumblin roun, but she ain goin stan and let nobuddy jump in her face. She okay. She okay."

## BOOK REVIEWS

by GERTRUDE MARTIN

William O. Douglas' "Almanac of Liberty" is an unusual book that traces the development of our political, religious, social and legal liberties. He has devoted one page to each day of the year, and has discussed a significant event that took place then which was important in our march toward freedom. As a lawyer and Justice of the Supreme Court Mr. Douglas has the training and ability to clarify in a few short sentences some of the little known happenings of our legal history. His book is an interesting experiment and one that has certainly succeeded.

Since the author has discussed 365 topics his book covers a wide range including the Supreme Court's unanimous decision against segregation in the public schools.

Beginning with the Declaration of Independence, through the period of slavery, up to the present Justice Douglas includes the Lincoln-Douglas debates, the Reconstruction Act, the Fourteenth Amendment, William Lloyd Garrison, the Poll Tax, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the Fugitive Slave Act. In addition he discusses a number of individuals whose rights may have been denied them or those who have fought vigorously for the rights of others. Among these two groups are Sacco and Vanzetti, William Borah, who talked a mob out a lynching, Dorothy Bailey, Tom Johnson, and many others.

Mr. Douglas is an able writer as his earlier books have shown. His comments here are thoughtful and concise and reveal a deep awareness of the human element involved in the issues he discussed. His remarks at the end of a short page on the Lincoln-Douglas Debates is typical:

"These great debates were between law and morals. Stephen

A. Douglas had the law on his side. But Abraham Lincoln had for his authority the conscience of the world. Lincoln lost the battle for the Senate, but he won the war for humanity."

He concluded his discussion of the May 17th Supreme Court decision on segregation with these words: "So spoke the Supreme Court at a point of history when intolerance and racial hatreds were tearing some nations apart."

This is a book to treasure and return to again and again. It contains a wealth of material presented in an original way and it bears witness to the vigor and strength of American principles. In his Foreward the author has this to say of present day America:

"There is room in this great and good American family for all the diversities the Creator has produced in man. Our Constitution and Bill of Rights were, indeed, written to accommodate each and every minority, or creed. That is our democratic faith. Out of that diversity can come a unity the world has never witnessed"

"Almanac of Liberty," by William O. Douglas; Doubleday and Company; 575 Madison ave., New York 22, N. Y.; 1954; \$5.50  
MODERN AMERICAN HUMOR

Bennett Cerf, the urbane head of Random House, publishers, panelist on What's My Line, and lecturer at large, has collected another anthology of humor. It is called "An Encyclopedia of Modern American Humor" and is devoted chiefly to present-day humorists. Mr. Cerf notes in his Foreword that this is the first major collection of American humor since the Sub-Treasury of American Humor edited by Katherine and E. B. White 13 years ago. A number of humorists have come on the scene since then, and Mr. Cerf has included them as well as selections from the old reliables. He has divided the contents according to region wherever possible but there are several general categories also.

Dorothy Parker, Russell Lynes' (The New Snobbism), E. B. White, Damon Runyon, Mark Twain, Will Rogers, Emily Kimbrough, and Eudora Welty — to mention only a few, are represented here among many others. Incidentally, the selection by Miss Welty, the Petri-

fied Man, introduced me to a different side of her writing.

This is a volume packed with comic spirit for as Mr. Cerf writes "... 'humor' is an elastic word. Many a story decidedly on the grim side remains essentially true to the comic spirit." I enjoyed the book and would quarrel with very few of the editor's choices.

"An Encyclopedia of Modern American Humor" edited by 575 Madison Ave., New York City; 1954; \$3.95.

Letty M. Shaw  
book published

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Miss Letty M. Shaw of Pittsburgh, Pa., daughter of Mrs. Julia Baum Shaw, has published her first book, it was announced last week.

The talented young writer who once served as secretary to the editor of the Lighthouse and Informer here, has written "A Strange and Gracious Gift," being published by the Story Book Press of Dallas, Texas.

Publishers describe the book as a collection of poetry and song which offers a true gift for lyrical expression and stimulating interpretation of the complex emotions that underlie human activities." The book retails for \$2.50.





# Book Review

By SAUNDERS REDDING

Ernest Hemingway has at last got what has come to be appreciated as the greatest "official" recognition of his great talents and his contribution to literature.

In general, the world applauds this more than any other American now writing. Hemingway deserved it—though, I think, not on the basis of the book, *The Old Man and The Sea*, cited by the awards committee.

Hemingway has written far better books. *The Sun Also Rises* was better; *A Farewell to Arms* was better.



Mr. Redding

BUT THE awards committee has a habit of refusing to cite the best works of the authors they honor. This was true in the case of William Faulkner, who has never done better than *As I Lay Dying* and *Told By an Idiot*.

It was true of Sinclair Lewis whose *Arrowsmith* was far superior to both *Main Street* and *Babbitt*, and who, one feels, got the prize because he was so American.

This is not a belittlement of Lewis. He had done a great service, but it was not a service to literature. He had educated us about ourselves and thereby put us in the way of helping us accept ourselves, our Americanness.

HEMINGWAY'S CONTRIBUTION has been to literature in a more exact sense. No one in America has influenced prose style so profoundly.

The influence is not so great now, for even Hemingway's most ardent admirers recognize that his style has taken on a rigidity, the nature of a habit, the nature, even, of a signature.

But for two generations almost every young writer in America imitated Hemingway's terse, clean prose. And this was good, for these young writers, when they were really good and when they came to be independently themselves, learned from Hemingway, and American writing is less cluttered, less verbose, and more precise.

BUT ALSO Hemingway contributed a new way of looking at life, even, if you will, a new set of values, a new set of attitudes toward life. Some of these are perhaps intellectually untenable—nihilism, for instance, as in the early novels and the beautiful short story, "A Clean Well-Lighted Place."

As a writer, Hemingway is not at all cerebral; he is not an "intellectual"; and yet the thoughtful reader derives intellectual and spiritual stimulation from him.

He has defined—redefined—human courage (it has been his only theme) in terms upon which a whole new school of philosophy

has been established.

Call the philosophy a "code," but that does not diminish its importance. It is positive. It makes an affirmation.

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FINALLY, HEMINGWAY helped to revive—that is, put life into—the short story. It had been dying. It had become formalized for popular consumption.

Sherwood Anderson had helped mightily to resuscitate it, but Anderson, already well into middle age before he started writing, too soon himself became formalized, deliberately exploiting the reputation he had got for literary freshness and naivete.

But Anderson was good for Hemingway, and the younger man (who seems to deny this in *The Torrent of Spring*) owes much to the older.

Hemingway freed the short story; he did things with the short story and in the short story that were unorthodox; he changed the course of its development.

## The Week's Books

Edited by George S. Schuyler

### An Amusing Novel of Africa

IN HIS efforts to adapt himself to British army life Gadien, the good-natured but incompetent son of an African chief, runs into many difficulties. These difficulties are depicted in the novel, "A Time to Laugh" (Julian Messner, Inc., New York, \$3.50) by Laurence Thompson, an Englishman who served with the Sudan Service Corps during the North African campaign. The author writes with skill and sympathy. His gentle irony suggests the absurdity of enlisting natives as primitive as Gadien. If the reader can shut out what he knows or feels about the "African situation" generally, he may enjoy Mr. Thompson's artistry.—EUNICE BLOODWORTH POTTS, Tuskegee Institute.

### A Quaker Enemy of Slavery

"John Woolman: Child of Light" (The Vanguard Press, New York, \$3) by Catherine Owen Peare is the biography of a great Quaker who was dedicated to the belief that "liberty is the natural right of all men equally." A century before the Civil War John Woolman became a leader in the long fight against slavery. This vivid story of his life can hearten and inspire those now battling evils which sicken our nation. It strengthens the faith that segregation must inevitably go, as did slavery. Young and old will find reading about this courageous man and his associates a rich and rewarding experience.—EUNICE BLOODWORTH POTTS, Tuskegee Institute.

### A South African Native Speaks

Beautifully written is "Tell Freedom: Memories of Africa" (Alfred A. Knopf, New York, \$4), a heart-rending story of the first twenty-two years of the life of young Peter Abrahams, a native South African. One marvels that an individual with such a harsh background, that an individual who did not see in a school room until he was ten is able to portray

so feelingly the tragedy and the sordidness of the life he and his people faced—and without or with so little bitterness.

But there is tenderness, too; and the love for his mother and sister and friends and for the great natural beauty of the country has surely served as a solvent in a land so filled with racial tension. This autobiography provides the reader with insight and an entirely new picture of the African scene. It is hauntingly beautiful and reading it is an unforgettable emotional experience.—EUNICE BLOODWORTH POTTS, Tuskegee Institute.

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### Communist Techniques in America

For the surprising number of political unsophisticates about communism, its methods of infiltration and subversion and the personalities who help it function successfully, there is no more illuminating and instructive textbook than "The Techniques of Communism" by Louis F. Budenz (Henry Regnery, \$5).

A former practitioner of the Red arcana before returning to Americanism, the author knows this international conspiracy from the inside and he tells an interesting and fact-packed story. It is a truly alarming account of the Red methods of worming into liberal and reformist organizations, the church, education, labor unions and Government all for the purpose of subverting, capturing and destroying them for the greater aggrandizement of Soviet Russia.

Especially rewarding is a reading of his chapter on "The Use and Abuse of Minority Groups," particularly Negro groups. There is a great deal of interesting information about the NAACP, the National Negro Congress, the Southern Commission for Human Welfare, the National Negro Labor Conference, etc. Many of our blatant anti-anti-Communist Negro "intellectuals" who still want to know the truth will find the Budenz book most educational.

—GEORGE S. SCHUYLER.



## About Books

BY JAMES J. FOREE for ANP  
EDITOR'S NOTE: IN TRIBUTE to Negro History Week the following books are being reviewed in order that the latest information and the latest information on the other allied forces for freedom and the fight may be known to the public.

FAMOUS NEGRO AMERICANS by Langston Hughes. 24 pp. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., \$2.75.

FREEDOM TRAIN by Dorothy Sterling. 144 pp. New York: Doubleday & Company, \$2.50.

INTEGRATION. By Margaret C. McCulloch. 77 pp. Nashville, Tenn. Race Relations Department, American Missionary Association Div. \$1.00.

Reviewed by Gladys P. Graham  
FOR ANP

Editor or Dodd, Mead and Company have released in time for Negro History Week the splendid new book FAMOUS AMERICAN NEGROES by Langston Hughes. A thrilling book jacket carrying the photographs of Harriet Tubman, George Washington Carver, Dr. Ralph J. Bunche and other stalwarts grips the reader immediately.

Woven into the personal stories of the subjects therein (17 in all) this volume represents the whole history of the Negro people in the United States.

The biographies contain the life stories of great Americans of African ancestry from colonial days to the present. Hughes reminds his readers that American democracy has produced the largest group of outstanding Negroes in the world from the Colonial poet, Phillis Wheatley, to the contemporary Pulitzer Prize winner in poetry, Gwendolyn Brook of Chicago, all of whom have worked in various fields of endeavor and made contributions for all to be proud.

## THE BOOK SHELF

By MARCUS H. BOULWARE

### JIVE AND SLANG OF STUDENTS IN NEGRO COLLEGES

by Marcus H. Boulware, St. Augustine's College, Raleigh, N. C. Price One Dollar

*Journal and guide P. 15*  
Slang is the language of students who want to relax from the daily school grind. It is daring, it is bold, it is metaphoric, and it is suggestive. If college professors studied this lingo, they would put more pep and zest into their lectures—which students call "sleepers." A teacher who puts "something on the ball" in his lectures is called a "regular cat." Professors, can you imagine that?



DR. BOULWARE

*norfolk, Va.*  
College deans and presidents are named "Ball in the Woods." Sheets are "white lilies," while dormitory bugs are referred to as "pillow pigeons." When students go to dances, they say "the cats are jumping tonight."

### Brewer's Book Praised...

Dr. J. Mason Brewer's book, "The Word on the Brazos," is called the "best Negro story book" since Zora Neale Hurston's "Mules and Men" appeared in 1935. Published by the University of Texas Press, "Word of the Brazos" is now in its second printing. Dr. Brewer heads the English Department of Huston-Tillotson in Austin, Tex.

### FREEMANTLE DIARY

## A Britisher Sees The South in 1863

THE FREEMANTLE DIARY: Being an account on his three months in the Southern States in 1863. By Lieut. Col. Arthur James Lyon Freemantle, of the Coldstream Guards. Edited and with notes by Walter Lord. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. \$4.

Reviewed by WILLIAM H. FIELDS

When the Freemantle Diary was published at Mobile and New York in 1864 it created a stir of interest. Southerners bought the book, bound in flowered wallpaper, because it offered a shred of hope. Northerners bought it because it was the first authentic word on conditions inside the Confederacy.

The preceding year the book feeling was running high at the had found a ready audience in time. England because pro-Southern But the War Between the

States soon was over and the Diary became a collector's item, selling for many times its original price. It was republished for the first time in 91 years.

On leave from the Coldstream Guards, Lieut. Col. Freemantle arrived at Brownsville, Texas, on April 2, 1863. For the next three months he traveled the length and breadth of the Confederacy. (He records spending the night at the Trouthouse Hotel in Atlanta and at the Planters' House Hotel in Augusta. His tour culminated at Gettysburg, which

### Exciting, Vital

## Dark Africa Depicted in Novel Form

Reviewed by Marjorie B. Snyder  
Contributing Book Reviewer

BEYOND THE HUNGRY COUNTRY. By Louise A. Stinetorf. Lippincott, 352 pp. \$3.50.

ONE OF THE CLASSICS in our language, one of the most informative books on Africa, was Louise A. Stinetorf's "White Witch Doctor." Now, in novel form she continues her description of the fabulous and little known Dark Continent and its people.

Here are no terroristic Mau-Mau. These are the so-called simple natives who—by all the evidence—are full of wisdom, humor and complexities. Their land tolerates the white man in its darkest recesses, but covers up his footsteps and forgets him almost as soon as he is gone.

The plot is of little consequence in this book of mystery and enchantment. Laura, daughter of missionaries, born in Africa—sees and thinks "black" as easily as she does "white." The others in the compound were still under Queen Victoria's rigid rules, Laura was instructed in the facts of life realistically. When she went to school in America, she

was "different" and not altogether happy about it.

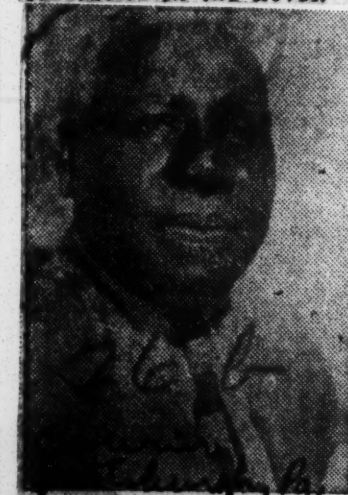
BACK IN AFRICA as a trained nurse to serve her loved people, she was herself again and truly her father's child. Father was a very wonderful—selfless, dedicated man. He taught Laura to know and understand the superstitions, beliefs and folk-ways of the natives. The novel is full of fascinating stories of the mission people and of the African "nationals."

There is, for example, the tale of an antique pill-rolling machine that came in a missionary barrel. How it served the hospital patients and how its donor was discovered, make a warm and delightful story by itself.

She tells of the distant People of the Fan, "beyond the Hungry Country." There Laura any Jimmy traveled, after their marriage, and began an agricultural mission.

Meanwhile, the men honored Laura as "she who was to come" and gave her loving cooperation. The story of Laura (it is her novel) is indeed the store of a missionary, but more, it is a sympathetic tale of two cultures, strange, exciting and vital.

The author has drawn upon her own experiences, or upon things that happened to her friends, for the events and chronicles in the novel.



Dr. Frederick A. Price, Liberian Consul General in the U.S. who spent many years in Africa as a Methodist missionary, has authored a new book on Liberia.

"Black Power: An American Negro's View of the African Gold Coast" by Richard Wright will be published in the fall by Harper. Mr. Wright made a long visit to Africa and his book re-shatters African tradition and British hegemony on the Gold Coast.



# Book Review

**OF MEN AND TREES**, by Ethel W. Wright. Exposition Press, 386 Fourth Ave., New York. 64 pp. \$2.50.

THERE IS verse which gives a distinct and lively pleasure because of the talent displayed in the mechanical accomplishment of its author.



This is the kind of verse that Byron, let us say, and Ben Jonson and John Donne wrote when their talents were not at the full.

This is also the kind of verse that the good versifier, rather than the true poet, habitually writes. It is not sublime, or even intense. It does not move to rapture or to awe. It does not pierce the heart.

Mr. Redding It is frequently witty and intellectually frivolous, as Dorothy Parker's lines are. Her name, cut clear upon this marble cross,

Shines, as it shone when she was still on earth; While tenderly the mild, agreeable moss Obscures the figures of her date of birth.

SUCH FRIVOLITY counteracts the special function of poetry, when it is not the sort of absolute that renders laughable a somber or serious thought.

The structure of verse, by being beautiful—that is, visually engaging and pleasant—can bear a resemblance to poetry too.

There was a whole school of versifiers, for instance, in the late 17th century, who believed they were being poets because they put their verse into forms that have visual appeal—crosses, stars, crescents and the like.

Some forms, of course, have emotional associations, and when these associations transmute to the verses themselves, one is likely to be fooled that the verses are poetry. But they are not.

TO BE poetry, emotion must be instinct in the words, and emotion must be genuine, else it does not transmute to the words which "stand for" the emotion.

It helps, certainly, if the words are harmoniously ordered and fitted into even lengths, but this is not a compelling need in poetry: emotion is.

Words and the forms into which they are put can be faked. Some versifiers do this all the time. John Dryden faked most of the time. A true poet never does.

AND I think that *Of Men and Trees* is the work of a true poet. This is not to say that every line in this volume is poetic, or that every stanza is a poetic gem.

Instead, many lines and stanzas miss their emotional and (of much less importance) their intellectual intent.

Also in some of the pieces the form is so incongruous to the thing expressed that one is irritated by the poet's disdain or (in

the instances I have in mind) ignorance of technique and form.

But there is some high and impassioned poetry in this volume—enough to make valid a tentative judgment: Ethel W. Wright is a poet.

Trees lift up God for men to see and know And never waive their confirmation. Bare Or clothed in leaves, their manners all declare

Him: the way their roots entwine, how they grow;

Their vaunted resuscitations. Snow And sleet and hail and wind may beat and tear,

Yet with a calm as beautiful as prayer Forged in certainty, they stand and show No sign of fearfulness. They let the night Exhaust itself and pile its own debris; Judge its own strength; then in the dawn—

ing light, Their boughs array the flags of victory. While tit for tat remains a lawful game And winners lose and losers counterclaim.

IF THE poet declines from this to... Follow my heart, if you can, And you may know the object of my pursuit; Unnamed, undefined, undetermined, it moves One second ahead of my pace;

Just without the limits of perception, It climbs to where my heart climbs... one reason is because she makes the mistake that is the boast of obscurantists—that thought in poetry must be as fresh and penetrating as emotion.

This is not true. Poetry is nothing if it is not first physical: it is derived basically from the pit of the stomach.

## Georgia Sparkles In Revised Guide

GEORGIA: A Guide to Its Towns and Countryside. Edited by George G. Leckie. Atlanta: Tupper & Love. 457 pages, chronology, bibliography, index, illustrations. \$6.

Reviewed by JOE BOYD

Work on the initial Georgia Guide first was undertaken in the mid-thirties by workers of the Writer's Program of the Works Progress Administration. Published in 1940, it was a valuable addition to private and public libraries in the state. But the writing was the work of many and so its quality fell short. And the volume was so long in developing that it soon became obsolete.

This revised edition, by Dr. Leckie, contains all that its forerunner lacked. For those interested in the state, its history, its character, its prospectus, this

is a wholly entertaining and worthwhile volume.

DR. LECKIE'S edition, as the title indicates, is divided into two major sections. The first 150

pages deal with Georgia's principal cities: Atlanta, Athens, Augusta, Columbus, Macon and Savannah. The editor traces the origins of the cities mentioned, why and how they came to be, how they grew and their character today, being careful in every instance to transmit to the reader in completely interesting manner the human element which makes any city whatever it is.

Part two, the remainder of the book, outlines a series of 29 tours across and up and down the state, which, if all were traveled in their entirety, would bring the traveler to virtually every note

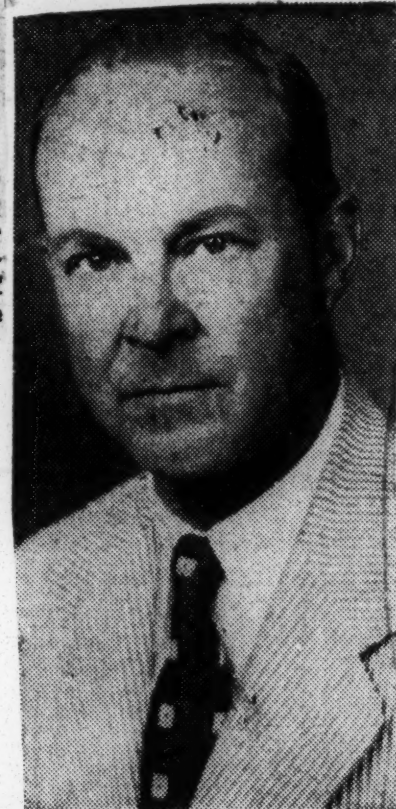
worthy point in Georgia. In lieu of such a lengthy pilgrimage, however, the reader can find the heart of most the state has to offer in the pages of this volume.

Random browsing might bring the reader, for example, to the town of Washington (Tour 8, from Aiken, S.C., along U.S. 78 to Heflin, Ala.). Washington, the beautiful little town which somehow retains some of the antebellum charm of its homes of that era. Washington, the home

of Robert Toombs, statesman, who successfully resisted an effort to erect a hotel in the town because "If a respectable man comes to town, he can stay at my house. If he isn't respectable, we don't want him here."

THE QUOTE is, of course, from Toombs and recorded in Dr. Leckie's description of Washington. It typifies Washington, and its use by Dr. Leckie illustrates his understanding of Georgia.

Dr. Leckie, a Ph.D. and until recently a philosophy professor at Emory University, devoted the last two years to final compiling, editing and writing his volume at his Little Creek Farm in Roswell, where he lives with his wife. The years were well spent.



GEORGE G. LECKIE  
Edits Georgia Guide



## BOOK POSTPONED

NEW YORK—Eleanor Early's informal travel book about the nation's capital, "Washington Holiday," will not be published until next year by Prentice-Hall, Inc.

## NEW DATE FOR BOOK

NEW YORK—"Immortality," by Alson J. Smith, which was to have been published by Prentice-Hall, Inc. on Feb. 25, has now been rescheduled for Feb. 24. It is a study of the evidence in support of survival after death.

## Wiley Professor Writes Paper

MARSHALL, Texas. — Dr. W. S. Hoffman, professor of history at Wiley College, had a paper accepted for publication in the NORTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL REVIEW. Dr. Hoffman, who received his doctorate at the University of North Carolina, wrote on "The Election Of 1836 In North Carolina."

In this election, the Whigs ran three sectional candidates and hoped to win by arousing sectional prejudice against the national Democratic candidate, Martin Van Buren.

The significance of Dr. Hoffman's study is to show that even where the people favored the sectional candidate, they would not vote for him and the election transferred to the House of Representatives. As a consequence, no major party has run more than one candidate in a national election.

## Associated Publishers list books available

The following is a partial list of publications by and about the colored peoples of the world, obtainable from the Associated Publishers, Inc., 1538 9th st., nw, Washington, D.C.:

Brooks — The Pastor's Voice;  
Brown — The Economic History of Liberia;  
Coleman — Creole Voices;  
Conrad — Harriet Tubman;  
Cook — Five French Negro Authors  
Cuney — Negro Musicians and Their Music;  
Daniel — Women Builders;  
Derricone — Word Pictures of The Great;

Dykes — The Negro In English

Romantic Thought;

Edmonds—The Land of Cotton

and other Plays;

Flaming — Distinguished Negroes

Abroad;

Woodson-Greene — The Negro

Wage Earner;

Grimke — Works of Addresses,

Sermons, Meditations and Let-

ters, 4 Vols.;

Hambly — Clever Hands of The

African Negro;

Hambly — Talking Animals;

Helping Hand Club — History of

The Helping Hand Club of the

19th st. Baptist church;

Henderson — The Negro in Sports;

Hill — Princess Malah;

Johns — Play Songs of the Deep

South;

Kerlin — Negro Poets and Their

Poems;

Klingbert — An Appraisal of the

Negro in Colonial South Caro-

lina;

Lawson — Dunbar Critically Ex-

amined;

McBrown — Picture Poetry Book;

Mazyck — George Washington and

The Negro;

Miller — Negro History In Thirteen

Plays;

Newsome — Gladiola Garden;

Pattee — The Negro in Brazil;

Quarles — Frederick Douglass;

Ramos — The Negro in Brazil;

Richardson — Plays and Pageants

From the Life of the Negro;

Roy — Pioneers of Long Ago;

Savage—Controversy Over the Dis-

tribution of Abolition Literature;

Schoenfield — The Negro in the

Armed Forces;

Schackelford — The Child's Story

of the Negro;

Schackelford — My Happy Days;

Simpson — Toussant L'Ouverture;

Taylor — The Negro In Tennessee;

Turner — Word Pictures of the

Great;

Van Deusen — Black Man in White

America;

Whiting — Negro Folk Tales;

Whiting — Negro Art, Music and

Rhyme;

Woodson — Negro Makers of

History;

Woodson — Story of the Negro Re-

told;

Woodson — The Negro in our His-

tory;

Woodson — African Heroes and

Heroines;

Woodson — African Myths;

Woodson — History of the Negro

Church;

Woodson — The Education of the

Negro Prior to 1861;

Woodson — Negro Orators and

Their Orations;

Woodson — The Rural Negro;

Woodson — Free Negro Heads of

Families in the United States in 1830;

Woodson — Free Negro Owners of Slaves in the United States in 1830;

Woodson — The Mind of the Negro As Reflected in Letters During The Crisis, 1800-1860;

Yancey — Echoes From The Hills;

The pilot of one of Columbus' ships, on his initial voyage of discovery, was a colored man, Pedro Alonso Nino.

BOOK REVIEWS

by

GERTRUDE MARTIN

Langston Hughes has written an

interesting group of short biographies of well-known Negroes past

and present in his new book, "Famous American Negroes." It is one

of a series of famous biographies for young people published by Dodd

Mead and Company. It is similar to Fletcher Martin's "Our Great

Americans," mentioned here several weeks ago, but far superior

to Mr. Martin's book in style and content.

Among the seventeen men and women included are Frederick

Douglass, Robert S. Abbott, Booker T. Washington, Harriet Tub-

man, Ralph Blatche, Daniel Hale Williams, Ira Aldridge and Jackie

Robinson. Mr. Hughes devotes only a few pages to each of his subjects

but he does not merely repeat the well known facts about each. It is

clear that he has looked for fresh material and has succeeded in making each of his brief sketches

distinctive. His choice of persons in a wide variety of professions

also adds to the interest of his book.

"Famous American Negroes," is a worthwhile addition to the literature of the Negro. As was men-

tioned here some time ago there is too little biographical material on famous Negroes available.

Young people should find this one good reading.

"Famous American Negroes," by Langston Hughes; Dodd,

Mead and Company; 432 Fourth Avenue; New York City; 1954; \$2.75.

## NEW EDITIONS

The New American Library, publishers of reprints in the Signet and Mentor editions selling at 25c and 35c, have initiated a new series called Signet Key books. The

first two of this series have just appeared: "How to Make a Success of Your Marriage," by Dr.

Eustace Chessier and "Gandhi, His Life and Message for the World," by Louis Fischer.

The new series is described by

the publishers as "authoritative, lucid non-fiction, especially designed to meet the reading requirements of the vast audience for inexpensive, mass-distributed books." The first two titles mentioned above certainly follow these

specifications. Two others will appear each month.

DR. LOGAN WRITES BOOK

February 12 is a fitting date for the appearance of Dr. Rayford

Logan's new book, "The Negro in American Life and Thought: The Nadir: 1877-1901." It is to be published by the Dial Press and is

described as "the first full-scale account of the betrayal of one of the chief aims of the Civil War

in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, when the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments, as

they were intended to apply to Negro rights were well-nigh completely repudiated."

Dr. Logan is head of the History Department at Howard university.

\$5,000 NOVEL CONTEST

The Atlantic Monthly Press in association with Little, Brown and Company have announced the Atlantic \$5,000 Novel Contest for 1955. There are no restrictions at all as to author or subject. The contest

closes January 15, 1955, and will be judged by the editorial staff of the Atlantic Monthly Press.

The winner will be announced within two months of the close of the contest, it is hoped. The publishers also hope to publish other

manuscripts, besides the winner. Writers may consult Atlantic editors while their manuscripts are still incomplete. No entry blanks

are necessary. Manuscripts should be post marked no later than Jan-

uary 15, 1955, and mailed to the Atlantic Novel Contest, 8 Arlington st., Boston 16, Mass.

## Books Published Today

A FOREIGN AFFAIR, by John Baxter (Avon, 35 cents). Novel of intrigue and suspense.

A NATION BETRAYED: The Story of Communism in China, by Charles R. Shepherd (Exposition, \$3).

AN EXPECTANT CREATION, by Robert D. Carmichael (Comet Press Book, \$2.50). Philosophical analysis of a variety of subjects in verse form.

A PRIDE OF LIONS, by John Brooks (Harper, \$3.50). Reviewed today.

BIBLE STORIES FOR YOU, by Gail B. Fargo (Philosophical Library, \$3.50). Book for young readers.

BIOGRAPHY OF A BAND, The Story of the Band America, by Marquis James and Bessie Rowland James (Harper, \$5).

BRAMTON WICK, by Elizabeth Fair (Funk & Wagnalls, \$3.50). Novel about a small English community.

CATHERINE D'SIEN, by Sigrid Undset, translated by Kate Austin-Lundy (Sheed & Ward, \$3.50). Biography of the nineteenth-century English author.

COUNTRY GIRL, by Richard McMullen (Popular Library, 25 cents). A novel.

DETERMINING THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK, edited by Herbert V. Prochnow (Harper, \$6.50). Guide to business forecasting.

DEVIL'S DAUGHTER, by Floyd Shaw (Avon, 25 cents). Novel about a vice syndicate.

HOW TO JUDGE A SCHOOL: Handbook for Puzzled Parents and Tired Taxpayers, by William F. Russell (Harper, \$2.50).

I WAS A STRANGER: The Faith of William Booth, Founder of the Salvation Army, by Harold C. Steele (Exposition, \$3).

JEW AND GREEK: A Study in the Primitive Church, by Dom Gregory Dix (Harper, \$2.50).

LAUGHTER CAME SCREAMING, by Harry Kane (Avon, 25 cents). Detective story.

MAGGIE AND MONTANA: The Story of Maggie Smith Hathaway, by Harold Tascher (Exposition, \$3).

MEN OF COLBITZ, by P. R. Reid (Lippincott, \$3.95). Account of Allied prisoners in the German "escape-proof" prison.

MORE STORIES IN THE MODERN MANNER from Partisan Review (Avon, 35 cents).

NEUROTIC ANXIETY, by Charleen Schwartz (Sheed & Ward, \$2.75). Study of psychology from a religious point of view.

SUCCESS AND SATISFACTION IN YOUR OFFICE JOB, by Esther R. Becker and Richard L. Law-

Guide to future Christian En-  
deavors.  
THE INDOMITABLE MRS. TROLLOPE,  
by Eileen Bigland (Lippincott,  
\$3.50). Biography of the nine-  
teenth-century English author.  
THE BLACK KNIGHTS OF WEST  
Point: History of Football at  
the United States Military  
Academy, 1890-1953, by James  
S. Edson, assisted by Joseph  
M. Cahill (Bradbury, Sayles,  
O'Neill, 219 East Forty-fourth  
Street, \$10)



# The Week's BOOKS

## STRANGE NOVEL OF FRENCH AFRICA

"Truth is stranger than fiction," is an apt expression for Paul Pilotaz's unusual novel, "Man Alone" (Roy Publishers, New York, \$2.50, 149 pages), into which is woven cleverly the story of the author's own life.

The scene is laid against a colorful backdrop in French West Africa with Champion (the author himself), a banana planter, playing the stellar role. He is an odd character, best described as a hard, exacting task-master whose slightest word met with instant obedience by the natives who tilled his plantation. Obsessed by an uncanny sense of pride and passion over the land he had reclaimed from the jungle for his plantation, he feels self-sufficient, and except for contact with his native servants, shuts himself off from the rest of the world, denying friendship or offers of help.

But for the timely intrusion of a fellow-planter, Pierre Maubert, seeking advice on banana growing, the morose and lonely Champion would have met with self-destruction. The ending is unexpected, but satisfying.

EVELYN W. SHARPE  
Deland, Fla.

## BELLE BRADLEY

Belle Bradley has lots of trouble. Her sister is "ruined" by the town's leading white citizen. Her brother is lynched, and she is twice run out of town by a lynch mob. Belle, a beautiful domestic servant, rises above it by going to New York, marrying the son of her employers and becoming an habitue of cage society. But when her marriage falls, she feels she can no longer live as a Negro among Negroes, having acquired a "white" outlook on life.

credible, Belle Bradley (Gold Medal, 25 cents) is fast-moving and readable. Its flat, unemotional style tends to balance the almost hysterical plot action.

The alleged autobiography (anonymously authored) succeeds as a story while failing as a picture of Negro life. Its thesis that an interracial marriage must fail is disproved by the book itself, which shows the seeds of failure in character rather than in situation.

MARJORIE JACKSON  
St. Albans, N. Y.



# Book Review

By SAUNDERS REDDING

## Alain Locke — A Promontory Has Been Washed Away

Alain Locke is dead, and those who know the part he played in bringing to maturity writing by American colored people are saddened by his death.

But not many know, for Alain Locke was a quiet man.

Some of those who saw him every day and many who sat in his classes three times a week were not aware of the germinating influence he had spread far beyond the cloistered confines of "the hill."

Some of them perhaps did not know of THE NEW NEGRO, and most, I'll wager, never heard of the Bronze Booklet Series which he and a younger colleague, Sterling Brown, kept going much longer than the ordinary rewards of such work encouraged.



Mr. Redding

In that unpretentious series appeared at least two titles — THE NEGRO IN ART and THE NEGRO (character) IN AMERICAN FICTION — that were pioneering and may at the last be definitive.

Locke's work was seminal. Sadly enough, it was better known and more highly respected outside his race than in.

He was among the first in the Twenties to give definition and direction to the flood of young talent that helped transform the literary landscape of America.

I do not speak effusively, as some will say, with this talk of transforming the literary landscape of America.

I am rather out of patience with those who fail to understand that in the dam-bursting tide of writing by colored people after the first World War a literary desert was transformed into an alluvial plain, and in this plain viable seeds were sown, that sprouted into flora such as America had never seen

before.

I am a little impatient with those who do not know, or will not recognize that but for the interest aroused in American colored life and people by colored scholars and writers there never would have been THE EM-PEROR JONES or COLOR, DARK LAUGHTER or CANE, HOME TO HARLEM, THE WALLS OF JERICHO, THE WAYS OF WHITE FOLKS or SOUTHERN ROAD.

And without them in their season the literary landscape of America would have been less green and rich and fresh and good.

Without Alain Locke there would have been less courage and encouragement — just as there would have been less of these without OPPORTUNITY, edited by Charles S.

Johnson, and THE CRISIS, edited by Du-Bois, and the MESSENGER, edited by Philip Randolph.

One of the functions Dr. Locke took upon himself was that of helping to ferret out young talent and bring it to attention.

Rudolph Fisher, Jean Toomer, Sterling Brown, Langston Hughes — these knew him and were proud and privileged to know him.

Some of the writers of this time were first published by Dr. Locke's own publishers, thanks to Dr. Locke.

He interested Horace Liveright and Alfred Knopf and Cass Canfield, publishers all in creative writing by colored people.

But Alain Locke was a quiet man; so quiet that few knew he had been ill until he died.

If the washing away of a clod makes the world less, how much greater the loss of a promontory? A promontory has been washed away.

## Sandburg on Lincoln

The biography for today is Carl Sandburg's magnificent one-volume edition of his warm-hearted and monumental "Abraham Lincoln." Here, to the greater glory of American letters, Mr. Sandburg has taken the two volumes of "The Prairie Years" and the four volumes of "The War Years" and reduced them to a big single volume that remains the truest portrait of the greatest American and, so far as I know, is the best biography of our day.

Fifteen years ago this fall, when "The War Years" appeared, I wrote columns about Sandburg's Lincoln. The appropriate thing to do now is to compress and alter what I said then, in proportion. There does not seem to be much to alter in the way of praise or caviling. The one-volume edition still woefully lacks maps, though it is otherwise well illustrated. The shortened elegies still suffer by comparison with Whitman's; the simplest writing is the most effective. But no one, in all the books about Lincoln that have appeared since 1939, has surpassed Sandburg's grand design.

There have been changes. These are based on new scholarship, new discoveries. Ann Rutledge's hair used to be "light corn-silk" color; now it's "auburn." And the wildly romantic writing about that elusive love affair is now almost classically restrained.

In the older version, on the eve of the Battle of Gettysburg, the gallant Pickett was saddled with some fairly weighty biographical and historical information, labored thoughts he might have entertained (with a few handy reference books) "in his blankets under the stars." In the new one-volume edition he is allowed to drop that impedimenta.

There has been skillful rewriting. But we still have the finest Sandburg lines, such as this one: "Lee rode his horse along roads winding though bright summer landscapes to find

\*LIGHT ARMOUR. By Richard Armour. Illustrated by Leo Hershey. 118 pages. McGraw-Hill. \$2.75.

†ABRAHAM LINCOLN: The Prairie Years and The War Years. One-volume edition. 762 pages. Illustrated. Harcourt, Brace. \$7.50.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN: The Prairie Years and the War Years, by Carl Sandburg (Harcourt, Brace, \$7.50). Reviewed today. ANOTHER MORGUE HAND FROM, by Frederick D. Davis (Doubleday, \$2.75). A Crime Club detective story.

EIGHT ESSAYS, by Edmund Wilson (Doubleday Anchor Book, 85 cents). Comments on Bernard Shaw, Theodore Roosevelt, Dickens, A. E. Housman, the Marquis de Sade, Lincoln, Hemingway and the Holmes-Lansdowne.

INDUSTRIAL VOYAGE: My Life as an Industrial Lieutenant, by P. W. Litchfield. Illustrations by Richard Baskin (Doubleday, \$4.50).

JAMES EARL RAY'S COURTNEY, by James A. Beard (Little, Brown, \$4.95).

MOTIVE AND METHOD IN THE CASE



## Lawyers Guild After American protests again

New booklet hits  
subversive label

NEW YORK — The National Lawyers Guild, in a 16-page booklet, has again attacked the subversive listing given it by Attorney General Herbert Brownell Jr., it was announced last week.

Some 25,000 copies of the booklet, titled, "Appeal to Reason," were slated to be sent to members of the bar, and civic organizations and to public officials, including every member of Congress.

Attorney General Brownell, said last Aug. 27, that he proposed to place the guild on his list of subversive organizations, following a speech to the American Bar Association in Boston.

### Text of Speech

In his speech, the attorney general said evidence showed the guild is a "Communist - dominated and controlled organization." The guild immediately denied the accusations.

The new guild booklet calls Brownell's proposal "utterly repugnant" to the Constitution, and says it "denies the right of due process of law," which "requires a conclusion after a fair hearing, not confirmation of a judgment previously made and announced."



### Year's-End Recapitulation

These are the books this reviewer particularly liked in 1953.

**Trespass**, By Eugene Brown—"Trespass has several things to recommend it to the discriminating reader. It has sincerity..." and "...a basic simplicity of concept and story that is the heart of all good narratives."

**Emanation Symphony**, by Beethoven II—"Emanation Symphony is in the ancient tradition of the heroic epic, and in that tradition it weaves fancy and fact, story into story."

"Its emotional tone is high-pitched, idealistic. Its characters...are good size. The poem thunders out its story in lines that have, as it were, weight and mass."

"The work has a compelling, evangelic sincerity that lifts the reader over the crude rhythms, the occasional jarring rhymes, the sometimes screaming dissonances."

**Simple Takes a Wife**, by Langston Hughes—"That's the wonderful thing that Langston Hughes does to you with words—he puts you in the same boat with Simple."

"That doesn't mean that you'd do the things that Simple does, or talk the way he does, or even—not necessarily—feel the way he does. It means only that you understand and sympathize with him."

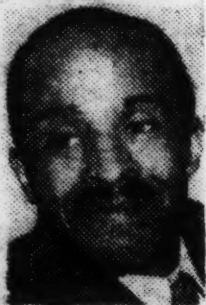
**A Good Man**, by Jefferson Young—"Jefferson Young does not condescend either to his characters or his readers. He has a fine, true ear for the vernacular, and he plays no tricks with the language."

"He plays none with the plot. As an esthetic experience, **A Good Man** is as fine a first novel as the last ten years have produced."

**Go Tell It On The Mountain**, by James Baldwin—"James Baldwin has profited from his reading—which is to say that his style is derivative. But this is no serious fault in a young writer...He has all the necessary gifts. **Go Tell It On The Mountain** seems to indicate that he has also the discipline to use them."

**Blanket Boy**, by Peter Lanham and A. S. Mopeli-Paulus—"Blanket Boy cannot be summed up in a review: it is too powerful a story of the growth of a human being, and it is too profound an exposition of the problems of a dark and troubled land."

**Arnold Bennett**, by Reginald Pound—"But the satisfactions that one finds in reading Pound's biography run much deeper and are fresher than the mere confirmation of opinion ever can be."



MR. REDDING

# Book Review

By J. SAUNDERS REDDING

"Pound's book is what scholars call a definitive study, but this fact would appeal to very few were it not also the fact that **Arnold Bennett** is a quietly forceful and honest narrative."

**The Negro in the Civil War**, by Benjamin Quarles—"Professor Quarles seems to have been assiduous in his search for facts—and this is the measure of him as a historian."

"But he also seems to have been careful to make the facts add up to truth, which some historians neglect as unscholarly. The result is a story seen largely through the eyes of many people, and full and round and interesting."

**The Narrows**, by Ann Petry—"It is natural to compare **The Narrows** with Miss Petry's other works, **The Street**, her first, and **Country Place**, her second."

"**The Narrows** shows a greater narrative skill than the first, and a tighter, sounder thematic structure than the second. Miss Petry is still growing. Given her potentials. **The Narrows** is not the best work she will do."

**Southern Renaissance**, Louis D. Rubin Jr. and Robert D. Jacobs, editors—"Southern Renaissance is a book that cannot be overlooked by anyone who wishes to understand contemporary American writing."

**In The Castle of My Skin**, by George Lamming—"Yet to call **In The Castle of My Skin** poetry is to overlook its purpose, which is certainly not, at least in the usual sense, a poetic purpose."

"Those who remember **John Brown's Body** will understand how a magical poetry can recreate a wholly unpoetic and disenchanting world."

**Maud Martha**, by Gwendolyn Brooks—"Miss Brooks brings to prose the same talents and qualities which mark her highly-regarded poetry."

"Those qualities are, outstandingly, perception as keen as a blade and as oblique as refracted light; sensibilities that produce controlled explosions of insight; beauty and precision of language; tension and restraint—condensation. **Maud Martha** is too short."

THINK BETTER OF BLONDS:

## Study claims Army duty changes race attitudes

PETERSBURG Va.—A recent study by Dr. Harry W. Roberts, sociology head at Virginia State college, published in the Oct., 1953, issue of "Social Problems" indicates that World War II service improved the attitude of colored soldiers toward white Americans.

Titled "The Impact of Military Service Upon Racial Attitudes of Colored Servicemen in World War II," the study is based upon the reactions of 279 white veterans enrolled at Virginia State college and Virginia Union university between 1946 and 1950.

These men gave anonymous answers to a series of written questions and many were either interviewed or engaged in informal conversation by the author.

Seventy-five per cent of the group entered service with negative attitudes toward whites and southern-born men, among whom original hostility was greatest, showed greatest improvement in attitude.

Among northern-born men, however, there was an increase in negative attitudes as a result of experience during military service.

Commenting on this difference, Dr. Roberts explained that southern-born men being more conditioned to racial segregation in civilian life "found less segregation, discrimination and violence in military service than outside it."

Dr. Roberts suggested further research on a more extensive scale to learn whether his findings would be true for all colored servicemen.

### Drake Professor Blackhurst, Author Of New Book

James H. Blackhurst, professor of education at Drake university, is author of a new book, "Body-mind and Creativity," published this month by Philosophical Library, Inc., a New York publishing house specializing in books on philosophy.

Six hundred copies of the book are

now in print with another 3,000 expected for printing and distribution to libraries. The entire book is simplified for easy understanding and each term used in the book is defined. The introduction is by Harold Benjamin, professor of education at George Peabody college, Nashville, Tenn., regarded by many as the leader in U. S. education.

Dr. Blackhurst spoke about 15 years in developing and writing the book, although he wrote another during this period. He is also au-

thor of "Directed Observations and Supervised Teaching," "Principles and Methods," "Humanized Geometry," "Euclidian Geometry: Its Nature and Use," and "Teaching Secondary Mathematics." All are textbooks.



# Book of the Week

**SAMMY LOMAX**, a young Negro boy, faced many serious problems in the process of growing up. He had lost his mother at an early age. Born into a family of nine children, he experienced poverty. He suffered personal illness. He was a part of a community of ignorance and superstition.

But despite it all, he resolved that he had a right to live and prepare himself in order that he might "help others to a better life." How he overcame obstacles and succeeded in carrying out his resolution makes inspirational reading for youth of today, as told by Thomas P. Ward in his book, "The Right to Live" (Pageant Press, New York, \$3, 249 pages).

**THE BOOK** details Sammy's experiences as he struggled to obtain an education at Fessenden Academy, then a small parochial secondary school near Ocala, Fla. It tells of the many people who touched his life and influenced his personality. There are such characters as stern "Professor" Wiley, the first principal of the academy, who mysteriously disappeared; Handy Murph, the difficult agriculture teacher who "picked on" Sammy; congenial, democratic Mr. Hobb; Theodore Thomas, de-

risively known as "TNT"; beautiful Cleavie Brown, his secret love, who seemed to "look down on him," and scores of others.

Since the history of Fessenden Academy is so closely woven into this story, "The Right to Live" will have an especial appeal to former students of this institution. The author, a Floridan, is pastor of a Methodist church in Jacksonville, Fla.  
**EVELYN WIGGINS SHARPE**  
DeLand, Fla.

**IF I HAD** the power, I should like to issue a directive to each Negro voter, to each representative of a religious or racial minority in the United States, and finally to each person who considers himself a good citizen, to read Louis Ruchames' book, "Race, Jobs, and Politics" (Columbia University Press,

\$3.75). **NO STUDY** I have read recently has moved me as much as this one.

The role of Negro leadership in dramatizing the issue is assayed. Roosevelt's issuing the "second Emancipation Proclamation" and then vacillating, Truman's talking FEPC but never taking definitive action to get its machinery established, the fascistic speeches of congressmen in opposition to FEPC, and the apparent determination of the politicians to keep FEPC a political issue rather than one for building better democratic hiring practices in this country—these and other issues are described with telling effect.

**THE QUOTATION** by Congressman Marcantonio is still appropriate today: "It is obvious to everyone, due to the events of today, that everybody wants civil rights as an issue but not as a law, and that goes for Harry Truman, the Democratic party and the Republican party."

Although the politicians continue to use it as a political football, we shall eventually have a national FEPC.

The writer maintains throughout the book an objective point of view, and lets the facts speak for themselves.

**EDWARD S. LEWIS**  
Executive Director,  
Urban League of Greater  
New York.

If it has been some time since you thought about your childhood, the reading of Ruby Berkley Goodwin's "It's Good to Be Black" (Doubleday and Company, Inc., New York, \$3.50) will bring back all the memories. Mrs. Goodwin writes with such an innate ease of expression; the warmth and intimacy of all the people in her book are so that you feel you've lived right next door to most of them or have at least known them by sight.

Du Quoin, Ill., even if you have never heard of it before, becomes as real as your own community. It was inhabited by people of many races and colors who knew how to live together in a friendly fashion

and to keep their noses out of each other's business at the proper times.

**THE CHILDREN** of Mrs. Goodwin's childhood, especially, grew up happy and uninhibited. They were shielded without being pampered, they were loved, but not spoiled. And, they were most certainly not color-conscious. To them, to be black was not a stigma . . . to be black was to be proud and distinctive.

This book will arouse comparisons: those reminiscences of your own childhood with the author's and the day-to-day living of our own children. Hm-m-m. Are our children happy now?

**GWENDOLYN WILLIAMS**  
Indianapolis, Ind.

## BOOK REVIEWS by GERTRUDE MARTIN

The story of Harriet Tubman's life is a heroic and exciting one as told by Dorothy Sterling in "Freedom Train." Her life was one of great hardship and great determination to find freedom for herself and then for as many others as she could lead from slavery. Miss Sterling's careful research has documented her story of Harriet Tubman's struggles and achievements.

Born about 1822, Harriet Tubman is quoted as saying she never knew a kindly master. Her own experience with her master and mistress was a fearful one. Leaving husband and parents in Maryland she fled to Philadelphia and freedom. A year later she returned to begin her mission of mercy leading parties of slaves to safety. With the passage in 1850 of the Fugitive Slave Law compelling law enforcement officers to hunt down runaway slaves, it became necessary to find refuge in Canada.

During the Civil War Harriet Tubman served the Army helping with escaped slaves and nursing both soldiers and civilians. She was a friend of John Brown and

he looked upon her as a strong source of support. Before the outbreak of the war she spoke at abolitionist meetings recounting her own experiences. After the war she remained active helping others almost until her death in 1913.

"Freedom Train" is a well written biography of a remarkable woman who overlooked her ills and troubles to devote herself to others. The book is illustrated by Ernest Crichlow. Young people especially will find much adventure and courage here.

**"Freedom Train"** by Dorothy Sterling; Doubleday and Company; 575 Madison Avenue; New York 22, N. Y.; 1954; \$2.50.

**"BELLE BRADLEY-HER STORY"**

"Belle Bradley-Her Story" is an anonymous story published by Gold Medal Books and supposedly written by a young Negro girl. It has a rather old-fashioned approach to race and to life with liberal sprinklings of melodrama. If the author is colored she has been living a cloistered life because her ideas on race and her various problems are certainly dated.

Here is a skeleton of the plot: Belle travels North with her parents after a frightening experience in their home town. They are employed in the home of a wealthy family and the son falls victim to Belle's charms. His mother discovers the romance, turns both out of the house and they marry. Like most fictional interracial marriages, this one does not prosper.

The book is most interesting as an indication of the trend even among pocket books to write about race either directly or indirectly. Gold Medal Books are all originals — not reprints — and like many of them the story of Belle Bradley is only mediocre. "Belle Bradley-Her Story" Gold Medal Books; Fawcett Publications; New York City; 1953; 25c.

## BOOK REVIEWS

by  
**GERTRUDE MARTIN**  
p. 6

Chester Himes' third novel, "The Third Generation" is his best to date. Like his earlier book it is violent and even brutal in the emotions it lays bare, but it is more than a simple recording of brutality which was true of his second novel, "Get The First Stone."

"The Third Generation" is the story of a middle class Negro family and its wanderings and tribulations. The father of the family was a pro in a Negro college in Georgia, then in Missouri, then in Mississippi. Later the family moved to St. Louis and then to Cleveland. This record of passage does not include the year that the mother spent with the two younger sons as teacher in boarding schools in South Carolina and Augusta, Ga.

Always in the background as the three sons grew up was the animosity of their mother, who could and often did pass for white to their father who was very dark. The pale she took in his education quickly disappeared after their marriage and was replaced with a sense of inferiority to her. She boasted of her own background which she embellished by adding a number of illustrious white forbears.

The book is concerned chiefly with the mother and with Charles, her favorite son., who most closely resembled her family. She is certainly neurotic and at times goes over the borderline of sanity. She is obsessed by color but remains an inconsistent character. For all her gentility she is unbelievable violent with anyone who crosses her path; the respect for learning and culture which she showed as she grew up and which drew her to her husband is not carried over to the college communities where she lives; she hounds and nags her husband unmercifully, yet the reader is to believe that she still loves him in the end.

Like a great many authors Mr.

Himes has started out with a good and believable plot with acceptable characters but has allowed all to get out of hand. Mrs. Taylor might have been an unusually well drawn picture of a color-dominated light colored person. Instead she is a mentally sick woman whose actions often are monstrous. Her relationship with Charles weakens him, but he is an odd mixture of violence and adolescent thrill-seeking. Will, the son who is blinded, and the father are more real but they are not in the forefront of the action.

It would be difficult to know how much of "The Third Generation" is autobiographical, but the short biographical sketch of Mr. Himes on the cover would indicate that some of it is. The author's tendency to excess mars an otherwise good book. Finally the reader begins to feel that the characters almost willfully thrust happiness and security away.

"The Third Generation" by Chester Himes; The World Publishing Company; Cleveland Ohio 2231 West 110th Street; New York City; 1954; \$3.95.

**Tubman Biography**  
A couple of weeks ago we wrote here that more and better biographies of Negro figures needed to be written. One that is in preparation is Ann Petry's life of Harriet Tubman, that indomitable woman who helped numerous fellow-slaves to freedom. It will be published by McGraw-Hill according to Laura Z. Hobson's column, Trade Winds, in the current Saturday Review of Literature.



# Print Pamphlet On Integration

*Refused P. 5*  
WASHINGTON—The American Council on Human Rights this week released a specially prepared brochure on implementing the decision of the Supreme Court in the school cases, it was announced by Elmer W. Henderson, ACHR director.

The brochure presents 13 steps suggested to local ACHR councils and other organizations to aid in effecting a rapid transition from segregated to integrated schools. The text of the historic decision is also included.



26b 1954

"An American in India: A Personal Report on the Indian Dilemma and the Nature of Her Conflicts," by Saunders Redding, will be published next Monday by Bobbs-Merrill. Mr. Redding, author and Professor of English at Hampton Institute, was asked by the Department of State to go to India as a representative of its cultural division. He felt he was going to India "as an

American, not as a Negro." His book presents a "earnest message" and personal record of a spiritual voyage.

## New Redding book deals with India

HAMPTON, Va. — Saunders Redding, English professor at Hampton Institute and book reviewer for the AFRO, is the author of a recently published book, "The Wild Dogs Are Close."

The new book deals with Mr. Redding's impressions of India, gained while on a lecturing tour of that country for the State Department in 1952.

In his writing, the author points out the seriousness of the communist influence in India and the strong feeling of anti-Americanism among the tens of thousands of Indians to whom he lectured during his 25,000 mile speaking tour.

An American in India. By Saunders Redding Bobbs-Merrill. 277 pages. \$3.50.

MR REDDING is an American writer and teacher who in 1952 was sent by the State Department on a three-month lecture tour of India, with the assignment "to help interpret American life to the people of India." The fact that he is a

Negro was, or should have been, irrelevant, for Mr. Redding had long since reached an objectivity based on an understanding of the reality of democratic progress.

In India, however, he quickly discovered that the matter of color was not irrelevant, and was in fact, vital. Even his own emotions were shaken when a Bombay beggar asked him doubtfully if he were American, and



Saunders Redding

then, laying a naked arm beside Mr. Redding's, smiled with wonder and recognition. "Same like me," he said then, looking at me. "Like by you." And suddenly Saunders Redding knew he felt closer to the nameless beggar than he did to the American woman who sat beside him

### The Difficulties of Truth

He found that wherever he went, trying only to be an American, he was treated as a combination of Joe Louis, Paul Robeson and the Shah of Persia. Introducing him, university professors would assure the audiences that in America Negroes were still bought and sold, murdered without any penalty by the whites, forbidden to attend schools and lynched if they voiced any protest. When Mr. Redding denied these allegations he was either contradicted outright or else accused of selling his racial integrity for State Department gold.

"Many Indians," he says, "were color-conscious to a degree completely unimaginable even to American Negroes. It seemed impossible for these Indians to conceive of a dark-skinned American as being other than the enemy of white, or of having a loyalty that goes beyond color. I was asked more than once whether the Negro community of America would join with the colored peoples of the world in a war against the white man."

AN AMERICAN IN INDIA: A PERSONAL REPORT ON THE INDIAN DILEMMA AND THE NATURE OF HER CONFLICTS

## An American in India

A Personal Report on the Indian Dilemma and the Nature of Her Conflicts.

Book Review

By SAUNDERS REDDING. "His mission was to make friends for America . . . Mr. Redding was well qualified for his task . . . And he is a Negro. His race was important and it makes his book important."

—ORVILLE PRESCOTT, N. Y. Times

"Lively, colorful, consistently thought-provoking, bewilderingly honest."

—LEWIS GANNETT, N. Y. Herald Tribune Book Review. \$3.50

P. 18 New York





## New Book Says U. S. Moral Sag Calls For Spiritual Recovery

"Today, one out of every 16 persons in the United States has been arrested and fingerprinted... for every dollar given to the churches, crime cost us ten dollars."

ngious organizations and is also the author of "One Moment With God." The book is recommended as good reading on a subject that has received too little attention.

These disclosures, attributed to the head of the FBI, appear in the introduction of a new book "America's Spiritual Recovery" by Dr. Edward L. Elson.

The book discussing our moral sag and the spiritual awakening, reports that "our record of law violation has become a national disgrace."

Dr. Elson is pastor to President Eisenhower. Before becoming pastor of the National Presbyterian Church, Washington, D. C., he served as a war chaplain and was recently designated as "Clergy Churchman of the Year." His book is dedicated to the President.

The author believes we are entering a period of spiritual recovery.

On the one hand, Dr. Elson points to statistics that a major crime is committed every 14.6 seconds; a divorce rate which if it continues at its present trend, will mean that "by 1960, we will annually have half as many divorces as we have marriages." He writes:

"We are brilliant but unhappy, clever but unstable, comfortable but comfortless; we own so much and possess so little. We are forlorn souls, groping and hungering and lost. Once again, as in the Garden of Eden, man is a fugitive from God and bereft of spiritual certitude."

However, there are hopeful signs, too. Among the factors he cites as evidence of a great spiritual awakening are:

1. The accelerated growth in church membership.
2. The reappearance of effective mass evangelism.
3. The spontaneous rise of dynamic laymen's movements.
4. The phenomenal sale and use of the Bible.
5. The personal example and public testimony of the President which has become a focal symbol of the renaissance.

Dr. Elson is active in many re-



## Yankee Nonconformist Yields

# Story of the Deep South Post and Times Herald Simmers in Uncertainty

Reviewed by Glendy Culligan  
Staff Reporter

**A LONG TIME SINCE MORN-  
ING.** By Leon Odell Griffith.  
Random. 243 pp. \$3.

**CREIGHTON IS A TOWN**  
so small you can barely see it  
on the map of Florida. You  
scarcely notice its cluster of  
stores if you drive through it  
along Highway 90. Yet Creigh-  
ton has more than its share of  
brewing violence.

Hugh Lee, Yankee editor of  
the Creighton Advocate, is  
spoiling for a fight because he  
resents the efforts of his wife,  
his father-in-law and the towns-  
folk to make him adopt their  
code of the Deep South.

Mack McSwain, the sheriff,  
is edgy with uncertainty over  
his job tenure. When that  
damnyankee editor refuses to  
underpay the Advocate's Ne-  
gro printer, Mack boils.

With Dimple Newton, the  
town's undertaker, tension  
rises in a quarrel with Hugh  
Lee over advertising. Dimple  
just can't seem to get the  
town's burying business, in  
spite of the new Cadillac  
hearse for which payments  
are overdue. He wants to econ-  
omize by canceling his ad but  
Hugh has a way of making  
that impossible.

SO IT GOES, all through  
the smoldering day. Frustra-  
tions pile up like kindling. A  
spark may touch off flames.

The suicide of Miss Mabel  
Gramby, spinster daughter of  
the town's pioneer builder,  
seems at first to be that spark.  
But, ironically, her tragedy re-  
verses the tide. Mabel's last  
gesture of friendship had  
touched Hugh. He isn't in a  
mood to object when the town  
elders rearrange the evidence  
to make her death leap appear  
to be an accidental fall.

And suddenly, he finds the  
words within himself to ease  
his conflict: "Part of Creighton

is good and part of it bad as  
the world is good and bad;  
and you cannot separate the  
good from the bad without  
destroying Creighton or the  
world."

This timely message of tol-  
erance would carry more  
weight had it been gleaned by  
a more impressive hero. Hugh  
Lee thinks of himself as a  
dedicated idealist who won't  
budge an inch from his prin-  
ciples. Yet, at the end of his  
climactic day, his principles  
remain hazy.

To be sure, he has demanded  
fair wages for Negroes; but he  
has also spied on his neigh-  
bors, bought bootleg whisky,  
used mild blackmail on his ad-  
vertisers, and quite pointlessly  
refused to help the merchants  
of Creighton promote a Farm-  
er's Day celebration.

ON THE OTHER HAND,  
there has been precious little  
good dredged up during the  
day's revelations about the  
town. The sheriff has broken  
a prisoner's hand, the under-  
taker has visited a prostitute,  
the banker's wife has sacrificed  
social class for financial secu-  
rity. And with all this, not a  
single jar of calves'-foot jelly  
has changed hands.

However, the town was there  
first. Far from sympathizing  
with Hugh's moody, introspec-  
tive monologues, the reader is  
inclined to ask: "If you don't  
like it here, why don't you go  
back where you came from?"  
The answer, of course, is that  
then there would have been no  
novel.

Perhaps that might have  
been best. Neatly plotted along  
standard contemporary lines,  
Griffith's work contains a fair  
cross-section of those "char-  
acters" who populate the small  
towns of Southern literature.  
The author encourages them  
to search their souls in that  
fancy prose that also has be-

## A LONG TIME SINCE MORNING.

come standard for moments of  
introspection.

But all of this has been done  
before, and better. Artifice be-  
comes particularly transparent  
at the climax, when Hugh Lee  
accepts the town, although no  
real change in it or in him has  
been demonstrated. He does  
so, one suspects, only because  
the book somehow must be  
brought to an end, and, being  
a writer himself, he accepts  
that literary necessity.



# Book Review

By SAUNDERS REDDING

**A SPARK FOR MY PEOPLE**, By Ella Earls Cotton. Exposition Press, Inc., 386 Fourth Ave., New York. 288 pp. \$4.00.

Now and then a reviewer comes across an obscure book that is deserving of wide attention. When this happens, the reviewer feels an unhappy inadequacy to attract to the book the attention he feels it ought to have.

He suffers also from his inability to convey to readers his own sense of the book's unique qualities. Whatever he says about such a book is a poor compromise between feeling and expression. It is easy enough to speak the critical truth about a really bad book, but it is something else again to speak the critical truth about an impressive book.

**A Spark for My People** is an impressive book. Given this statement to start with, it would seem simple enough to say why it is impressive. And, indeed, if the principal factors that make the book impressive were literary factors, it would be simple enough.

But the factors are not literary, and it is because they are not that one's critical faculties betray one and refuse to be brought into line.

Ella Earls Cotton's book is a melange, which, we are taught, no book ought to be. It has a half dozen story lines, and this is against the rules. It has no clear thematic structure. In spots it is grammatically impossible.

On the basis of these faults, this reviewer, who is himself something of a stickler for craftsmanship, would consign **A Spark for My People** to the trash pile.

Yet the book has qualities of a non-literary kind that override these faults and contribute to a reading experience that is delightful.

The contributing qualities are nearly all qualities of personality. Mrs. Cotton has innocence. Mrs. Cotton has serenity. Mrs. Cotton has true humility. Her innocence would be ridiculous if it were not so sublime.

Personages and events — the circumstances of her own birth, for instance — worthy of the severest condemnation are lifted above criticism by the author's complete guilelessness.

Her serenity might seem the result of ignorance were it not that Mrs. Cotton passes with high credit the great test of all intelligence — the ability to profit by experience.

And her humility might seem ignoble were

it not the result of a consciousness alive to the great wonder of life. And great wonder in such little things, for it cannot be said that Mrs. Cotton's life was strange, or remarkable.

Almost no detail is in her life but what it cannot be duplicated in the lives of ten million others. What cannot be duplicated is the personality Mrs. Cotton brought to living.

This personality illumines for us all the experiences she chooses to relate — the "fetching up" by her grandparents after her mother deserted her; her schooling in various one-room Virginia schools and, later, at Knoxville College; her gradual awakening to sex; her career as a teacher.

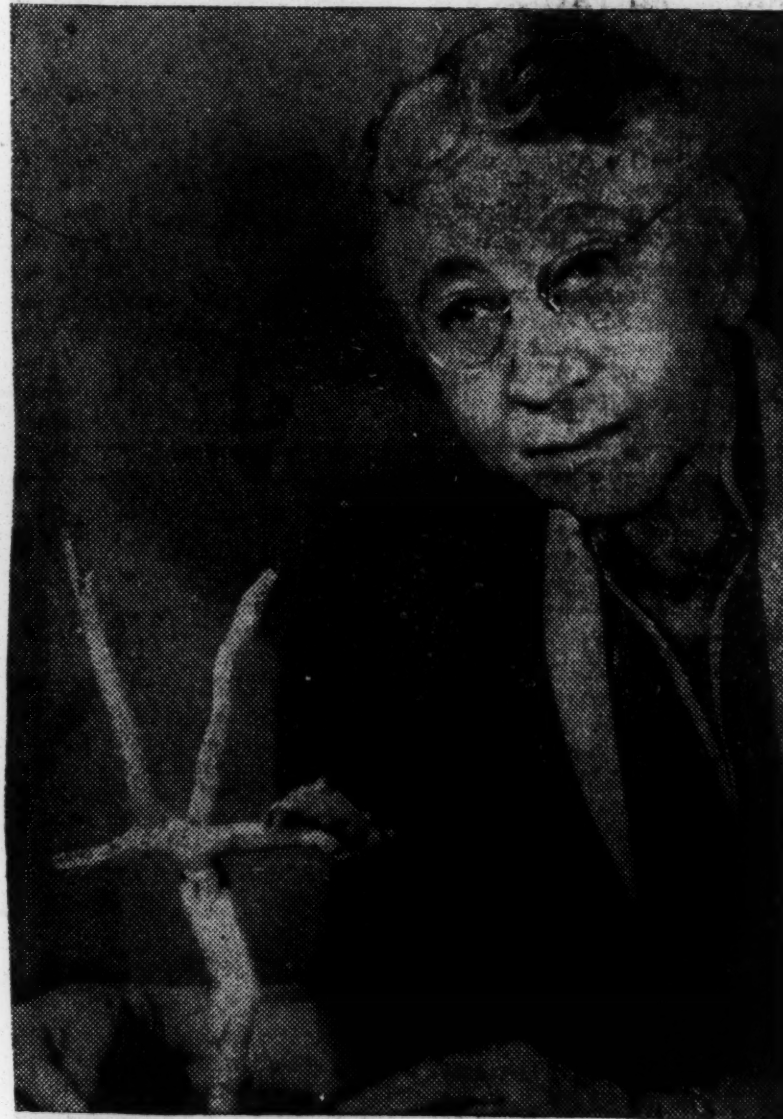
All of these quite ordinary things are made to shine, often with great beauty, in the special light of Ella Cotton's character.

**A Spark For My People: A Sociological Autobiography** of a colored teacher as title and subtitle do the work a peculiar injustice by setting it a wholly arbitrary and false limit of appeal.

The title and subtitle nearly warned me off, for they suggested the kind of work often described as "inspirational," "polemical."

Though Mrs. Cotton's book inspires, it is not inspirational, and though it involves some controversy, it is far from polemical.

## Alabama Teachers Heroism Recalled



Courtesy MRS. ELLA E. COTTON

p. 20

... "A Spark for My People" in retirement

DURHAM, N. C.—An 80-year-old retired Alabama school teacher has etched in an unforgettable picture the quiet heroism of the Negro school teachers of the South who, in large numbers, had to rise above their pathetically limited equipment to overcome the indifference and hostility of the whites toward educating the Negro.

Mrs. Ella E. Cotton, now living in retirement in this city, tells in her first book, **"A Spark for My People,"** of the struggles and patient devotion of the early teachers in the South.

The author challenges Negro leaders and teachers to accept the responsibility which is peculiarly theirs.

The sociological autobiography of this remarkable woman is truly an authentic evocation of the life and times of both races.



# Ella Earls Cotton Writes "A Spark for My People"

perience. A review of the book was published in the Nov. 13 issue of the Journal and Guide.

In one of the most refreshing of the new books, termed a "sociological autobiography of a Negro teacher," written in pleasing style by Mrs. Ella Earls Cotton, is "A Spark for My People." Mrs. Cotton has produced the type of book that you read and re-read for fear of missing a poignant or amusing incident.

The author's imagination colors the homey incidents and her choice of words is thought provoking. Her manner of writing makes for ease in reading and brings one in closer touch with the author.

You feel with her, the delight and love of her grandfather, who, with her first teacher, inspired her childish ideals. She felt an "inner communion of spirit" always with him.

## KNOXVILLE

Her schooling at Knoxville College in Tennessee . . . her romance with Mr. Cotton and her subsequent marriage, are nostalgic pieces of understatement in which you feel as one with the young girl who chose to plight her troth with a member of a "first family" of Kentucky.

How she and Mr. Cotton began their teaching careers . . . how they invaded the deep

grow up to be slaves. Hundreds of touching items pour forth from the pages of the books, like the conflict between the Cottons and "Parson" Beck who passed out "hands" as part of his duty.

Forty or more years of teaching and now retirement in Durham, N. C., have brought to Mrs. Cotton the tolerance, the kindly friendliness to all in which life has imbued her.

## WORTHWHILE

For us, the book is filled with well-known names. Her children are prominent in varied fields. As a Presbyterian church school teacher, Mrs. Cotton has dedicated her book to the Negro school teacher in whom, she says, lies the salvation of Negro youth in the South.

"A Spark for My People" (Exposition Press, Inc., \$4) is a worthwhile and absorbing addition to your bookshelf.—Toki Schalk Johnson.



ELLA EARLS COTTON

South, he people they met . . . the wonderful ex-slave "Granny" who refused to let her babies



**AUTHOR** — Mrs. Ella Earls Cotton, of Durham, N. C., is author of an interesting book entitled "A Spark For My People, A Sociological Autobiography of a Negro Teacher" which was recently published by Exposition Press, Inc., New York City. Mrs. Cotton spent most of her active life in the teaching profession, and writes her 390-page book out of a rich experience.





# Book Review

By SAUNDERS REDDING

**A Wind Like a Bugle**, by Leonard Nathan. Macmillan Company, 60 Fifth Avenue, New York. 282 pp. \$3.50.

Leonard Nathan has taken some of the most dramatic material in American history to fashion a solid and satisfying novel.

Many historical novelists, placing their dependence upon the drama of historical events, are satisfied to create one-dimensional, uncomplicated characters, or to recreate pageantry, or to embroider history to fit the requirements of plot.

Nathan does none of these, and some readers may complain that he does not. What he does do calls for greater sincerity and greater skill.

For, first, he creates complicated characters. He creates them in the round, and if the first fifty pages of **A WIND LIKE A BUGLE** seem to move at slow pace, it is only because the novelist realizes that what follows must be justified in terms of character.

It is not easy to unravel the mixed motives behind the actions of human beings. It is not easy to explain why "causes" blossom in the heart and brain and are seldom the result of mere historical imperatives.

But it is just such an explanation that **A WIND LIKE A BUGLE** gives us. If, laying aside this book, one has a clearer knowledge of the opening of the western route of the Underground Railroad, one has also a deeper understanding of the complex minds and emotions of the people who kept the road open.

The story itself is the simple story of the conflict between the historical forces of slavery and abolition. It is worked out principally in the lives of three people—Susan Orr, herself a passive abolitionist, but the widow of an ex-slave owner whom she cherished; Neal Geddes, a bitter and cynical follower of John Brown, and Little David, a slave.

When Susan, from one set of motives, and Neal, from another, join forces to free Little David, we begin to understand that abolitionism was not a simple thing of unselfish dedication.

If Susan set out on her dangerous mission with only the wish to help reunite a slave with his slave wife, she soon enough discovered that she wished also to work her own salvation and to deserve the love she thought she would, with the death of husband, never again desire.

And if Neal Geddes, hurt by the rejection of the beautiful Southern belle he once loved, started a bitter avenger, he ended a man with countenance radiant from the realization of his escape from the death of his soul.

Though the plot of **A WIND LIKE A BUGLE** is constantly underplayed because the novelist is interested in people, it is nevertheless tense with excitement.

It is the chase plot—Geddes and Little David are chased by the slavers from the edge of Missouri, through Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa and Illinois.

They meet many adventures; they have hairbreadth escapes; they come in contact with an interesting assortment of characters. Even John Brown himself is met for a moment.

But the story is Neal's, Susan's and David's. Nathan does not allow history to do more than it needs. Perhaps he felt that because the history of the last days before the Civil War has been worked to near-exhaustion, he could not afford to.

**A WIND LIKE A BUGLE** is a solid accomplishment.



Mr. Redding



BEHOLD ME ONCE MORE: The Confessions of James Holley Garrison, Brother of William Lloyd Garrison, edited by Walter McIntosh Merrill (Houghton Mifflin, \$3).

JASSEL, L. ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WORLD LITERATURE, Vol. I, Part 1, Histories and Special Articles, Part 2, Biographies to 1914, A-H; Vol. II, Part 2, Biographies to 1914, Z; Part 3, Biographies of Contemporary Writers, edited by S. H. Steinberg (Funk & Wagnalls, two volumes, \$25).

CIVIL LIBERTIES AND THE VINSON COURT, by C. Herman Pritchett (University of Chicago, \$5). A study.

CRY OUT OF THE DEPTHS, by Georges Duhamel, translated from the French by E. F. Bozeman (Little, Brown, \$3.50). Novel about a man driven by ambition.



# Book Review

*Appt. with God*  
**APPOINTMENT WITH GOD**, by J. B. Phillips. Macmillan Company, 60 Fifth Ave., New York. 61 pp. \$1.75.

**APPOINTMENT WITH GOD** is an essay on the significance of the sacrament of Holy Communion. The purpose of the essay is two fold: to give the ordinary layman a more intelligent approach to the Communion ritual; and to show how, by using one's mind and "imagination," the Holy Sacrament can enrich and deepen the spiritual life.



The book is specifically addressed to those laymen who take Communion in the same attitude of tolerant indulgence they bring to a fantasy or a fairy tale.

**THE REV. MR. PHILLIPS** makes his point of departure an attack on the medieval metaphysics with which the Communion ceremony is too often surrounded.

The ritual, he says flatly, is concerned with reality and "not at all with religious fantasy."

He supports his assertion in two ways by showing Christ to have been most realistic and most practical, and by presenting evidence of the truth of the story of Christ's last Communion and last command.

— o o o —

"AND HE took the bread and broke it ... Do this in remembrance of me."

Christ was creating a memorial to Himself, the author says, and this creating a memorial to themselves was quite a common practice among teachers of the time.

The Holy Communion, therefore, represents an historic tradition which should "give comfort and security."

But the mere historic tradition did not seem enough for the liturgists of the Roman Church. They felt compelled to accept literally the words of the Latin Mass—Hoc est corpus meum—and so the Church imposed upon the simple memorial service the "non-sensical magic" of transubstantiation.

The Church declared that in the act of consecration the bread actually became the flesh and the wine the blood of Jesus.

The Christ intended no such hocus-pocus. He had spoken figuratively, as He had done often before; "I am the true Vine," he had said once, and "I am the Road," and, "I am the Door."

Having cleared this way, the Rev. Mr. Phillips declares Holy Communion to be spiritual nutrition. But one must be prepared to be nourished.

But just here at this point, it seems to this reviewer, the author himself falls into magic, or at the very least, metaphysics.

He asks that we accept the statement that "Christ lives within us" not as a metaphor, but as a sober literal fact.

Once the statement is accepted as literal fact, the rest is easy. Then when we eat the wafer and drink the wine we not only hold in our hearts the memory of Christ and are intensely aware of His sacrifice, but also and literally, we add to the "Christ within us."

Though **APPOINTMENT WITH GOD** is addressed to the layman, it seems to this reviewer that only the trained theologian can fathom its whole meaning.



# All for Love Of Science

THE BAFUT BEAGLES. By Gerald M. Durrell. Illustrated by Ralph Thompson. 238 pp. New York: The Viking Press. \$3.75.

By DONALD T. CARLISLE

NATURAL historians who can express themselves have been all too few, and last year a qualified newcomer was justly hailed in the person of Gerald M. Durrell. This young Englishman's first book, "The Overloaded Ark" was a refreshing experience. It was a simple account of a first solo flight into the West African collecting field, told with modesty, humor and a convincing explanation of what the author was attempting to do. The title was a bit misleading but the story gave a beguiling picture of the charms of animal collecting, its joys and sorrows, hazards and rewards. The adventure had something of a Lindbergh touch about it.

The author's latest book, "The Bafut Beagles," is something else again. And the title is even more inexplicable for the "Beagles" who play a most subordinate and preliminary role in the narrative, turn out to be four hunter subjects of the Fon of Bafut and their "thin ungainly mongrel dogs," presented to the author as "the finest hunting dogs in West Africa." The central figure of the book is the Fon himself.

Permission to collect animals in the Bafut Bemenda Division of Nigeria rests solely with the Fon of Bafut, who is characterized by the District Officer as "a sort of Nero" of the territory with a heart to be won by John Barleycorn alone. The author's opening gambit of a bottle of gin brings the Fon's welcome, and from then on, following a few brief skirmishes with the "Beagles," the story deals largely with the home and ceremonial life of this African overlord and his alcoholic precocity.

THE short warm-up with the "Beagles" takes up time until the Fon's subjects return or

their annual visit bearing grass to rethatch his roof and those of his considerable harem, for the Fon even has a band composed of conjugal musicians. This rethatching project, sort of a harvest festival, marks the real take-off of the animal collecting venture. At the height of the festivities the Fon exhorts his subjects to take part in a realm-wide "beef" hunt in behalf of science. On this occasion, in exchange for vast quantities of native "mimbo," bad gin and White Horse—along with the gift of a dusky daughter of the Fon (diplomatically declined)—the author instructs the tribesmen in the conga, an amusing and successful undertaking which demonstrates the ends to which a scientist must sometimes go for specimens. As

A writer on science, Mr. Carlisle is vice president of the New York Zoological Society.



Illustration by Ralph Thompson for "The Bafut Beagles."

The Fon of Bafut.

an aftermath, Durrell leads a reluctant retinue off into the dawn's early light in quest of the hairy frog—an oddly fitting climax to a night of revelry.

The Fon's exhortation to his people is successful, and from this point until he leaves Bafut, the author's life is largely made up of problems having to do with the purchase, housing and care of the vast quantities of "beef" brought in daily by what must have been most of the able-bodied members of the community, punctuated by

bottle-bouts with the Fon necessary to the maintenance of the collecting franchise.

A series of fascinating animals flows through the narrative—the squirrel that booms like a giant gong, rock hyrax, Scops owls, vipers, a golden cart and Sweeti-pie, the black-eared squirrel that loved to be chased. There are infant red river hogs and kusimansel mongooses, pangolins and Colobus monkeys. The Fon and his people help unexpectedly when the author is bitten by an unidentified and venomous reptile mistaken for a harmless blindsnake.

This is a somewhat more sophisticated account than "The Overloaded Ark" and it is appropriately illustrated by Ralph Thompson. The author does write entertainingly about the smaller, less-known and thoroughly engaging subjects of the animal realm (the largest creature mentioned is the chimpanzee). One somehow wishes he had stuck resolutely to his captures—or else confined himself to an anthropological discourse on the bibulous Fon and his cheerful people.

THE BAFUT BEAGLES



26b 1954

## BEHOLD NORTH AFRICA

"Crossroads of the Mediterranean," by Hendrik de Leeuw (\$3.74, Hanover House) gives a fascinating picture of Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco. The author sketches in a history of each place and adds his impressions. The coast of North Africa has been taken countless times by a variety of conquerors, all of them cruel, but some more admirable than others. Many of the cities were founded by Phoenician traders.

Carthage, the greatest example of all, commanded the trade of the Mediterranean for 700 years until conquered by the Romans. Then came Turks, Numidians, Barbers, Spanish, French, etc. Moslems are now the most numerous and they and the French are now dueling to see who shall be in future command.

One group has little affection for the other, and individual morals are low. This gives cities like Tangier a great and sinister glamour. Some sections are devoted entirely to prostitution and perversion. Boushira is a small, white-walled city devoted entirely to prostitution. In another place there are streets of male prostitutes.

The position of women everywhere in North Africa (as in the rest of Africa with the exception of Ethiopia, and in a few small tribes) is extremely low. There is no affection between husband and wife; she can be divorced without just cause and daughters are sold or traded for favors. Among the Moors, the women are the worst treated with no rights of inheritance, no social position. Daughters are largely mistreated by their fathers before being handed on to brutal husbands.

They are kept in windowless houses and can only creep out on Fridays to go to the cemetery. It is a pigsty of rivalries, lust and chicanery. But the scenery is superb, the climate is ravishing and the food delectable.—  
JOSEPHINE SCHUYLER, New York.

BEHOLD NORTH AFRICA



# Yerby Writes New Historical By Frank Yerby

BENTON'S ROW

## Louisiana Lulu Again

June 12-54  
BENTON'S ROW by Frank Yerby, (Dial \$3.50) P. 5F

One could start out by saying that Yerby has been called the modern Dumas, that his novels have been translated into 10 foreign languages and sold more than 12,000,000 copies. In Benton's Row he has gone back to old Louisiana, Mississippi and the scene of The officers and into Texas, and Foxes of Harrow and The Vixens a new turned out a story of four generations of lusty Cajuns.



YERBY

turned out a story of four generations of lusty Cajuns.

No one can claim the Bentons are attractive people. In fact, the first Benton arrived in the Red River valley just one jump ahead of the sheriff.

With considerable skullduggery he manages to steal the wife, slaves and land from another man and found a dynasty. All his descendants are weak, evil or distorted in some way. Murder, illicit love and abuse of power follow them down the generations until Benton's Row comes to a thrilling climax.

Hard to understand Mr. Yerby's charm, if charm it is. His colorful and authentic backgrounds have something to do with it, and the fact that his characters are all originals behaving in the way only a Yerby man or woman can!

BENTON'S ROW, a novel by Frank Yerby, The Dial Press, 461 Fourth Ave., New York 16, N. Y., 346 pages—\$3.50.

With all the emotional abandon and moral cynicism that have marked his earlier novels, Frank Yerby presents the revealingly bald story of the Bentons, four generations of them, and have through their lives of bluster and bragging, seduction and murder, cowardice and courage, age, birth and death.

It begins with Tom Benton, a man who had fled his native old Louisiana, Mississippi ahead of arresting scene of The officers and into Texas, and Foxes of Harrow and The Vixens a new turned out a story of four generations of lusty Cajuns.

That was in 1842. Thereafter, using almost every resource at his command, he takes the wife of a circuit-riding preacher, sees that minister lose his life

and his soul in consequence, seduces and has a child by the beautiful daughter of a neighbor Cajun, goes through a dramatic reformation that fools all the community of planters (who had been about to lynch him), and accumulated land and credit to the point where, on the eve of Secession, he owned more land and more slaves than anyone in a radius of many miles.

It was Tom Benton's reputation with women plus a son who inherited nothing from his father except a ruthless disregard of others that finally led to his death, just as he had been about to go to Boston in pursuit of a rebellious daughter whom he adored, and who was so much like him in every respect.

From there the tale continues through three generations after Tom Benton, up through World War I, in a lusty and interest-holding recital that is quite as good as anything Yerby has written before.

## Frank Yerby Pens Saga of the Bayous

BENTON'S ROW By Frank Yerby (Dial. 346 pp. \$3.50)

By FREDERIC G. HYDE

Returning for background to the Deep South which provided the scene for such successes as "The Foxes of Harrow" and "The Vixens," Frank Yerby demonstrates here that he has not

lost the formula which has made him one of the Nation's best-selling novelists.

Lusty, brawling, romantic, and crackling with gunplay, this is the story of wild Tom Benton, who comes into the Louisiana bayou country a jump or two ahead of a posse in 1842, and of the four generations of Bentons who follow him. The author carries the tale well into the present century.

Over the span of those years, Tom's wife, Sarah, lives on to provide a connecting link for the scattered members of the Benton family, a focus for their activities, and a source of cohesiveness for Yerby's otherwise rambling narrative.

By the time of her death in 1920 at the age of 97, she and Tom's descendants have had a hand in three wars, the Louisiana Lottery, the Reconstruction period, lynchings, and a frightening assortment of chicanery.

For Tom Benton's offspring, and their offspring in succession, are scarcely a lovable breed. Greedy, stubborn, often weak in moments of crisis, they share in common only amorality—a trait which serves as a peg for a moral ending, in which the wicked get their just deserts.

"Benton's Row," suffice it to say, will prove eminently satisfying to those who enjoy the Yerby mixture.

## Mixture As Before

BENTON'S ROW. By Frank Yerby. 346 pp. New York: The Dial Press. \$3.50.

TOM BENTON rode into Louisiana in 1842, one jump

page 344. 12-5-54

The author may be trying to demonstrate that Tom Benton was "the very type-form" of the antebellum South—a crude, violent man playing the phony cavalier. By the time the book ends—on a psychiatrist's couch, appropriately—it hardly matters.

RICHARD MATCH.

ahead of a Texas necktie party. The first thing he saw was Sarah Tyler. "I'm a beast-critter," he said to her, "but Sarygal, you love me \* \* \* and you ain't never gonna git shut o' me—'cause you can't."

It is a measure of Frank Yerby's hidden ability that he can transform a hero who talks like a caricature of Hopalong Cassidy into a reasonably attractive, almost dignified human being. This Mr. Yerby does with Tom in the first half of his newest historical. In fact, Mr. Yerby could, one suspects, be a pretty good novelist if he ever got his mind off the neckline and the cash register.

Sarah actually did "get shut of" Tom, thanks to a neighbor's stiletto, in 1860. Meanwhile, however, Tom Benton had become the richest, lustiest, straightest-shooting, hardest-drinking planter in the parish. After his death, Sarah lived on to the age of 97, nursing the passel of brats, grand-brats, and great-grand-brats Tom had sired on both sides of the bar sinister.

Shifting gears at the halfway mark, "Benton's Row" turns in to just about the least convincing, most confusing "cavalcade" novel I have ever inspected. Sarah recapitulates the Benton generations in 1920. First there was Tom's son Wade; then "Wade's sons, Stone and Nat, and Buford's Fred at the same time; and now Roland, Stone's son, the last legal bearer of the Benton name—" and so on. Even Sarah, the matriarch of the Benton clan, makes a mistake in Benton bloodlines on



# With a Love Unscarred

BISHOP HEALY: Beloved Outcaste.  
By Albert S. Foley, S. J. Illustrated.  
243 pp. New York: Farrar, Straus  
& Young. \$3.50.

By JOHN LA FARGE

WHEN Cardinal Spellman consecrated last year the Most Rev. Joseph Oliver Bowers, S. V. D., as Bishop of Accra (British West Africa) he remarked that this was the second Negro priest to be raised to the Roman Catholic episcopate in the United States. The first to be clothed with this dignity was James Healy, Bishop of Portland, Me. He was born in 1830, the son of Michael Healy, an Irish immigrant to Georgia, and a "mulatto" slave-girl. Though Michael had his common-law marriage later ratified by a church ceremony, he was unable to have his children emancipated even after he moved to the North, so that young James had two strikes against him while studying for the priesthood in Montreal and Paris. A note in his London diary, during the Civil War, is revealing.

"I talked long and eloquently for the North principally, because it was foolishly attacked by people who had nothing to boast of and are inclined to look upon Americans, North and South, as monsters."

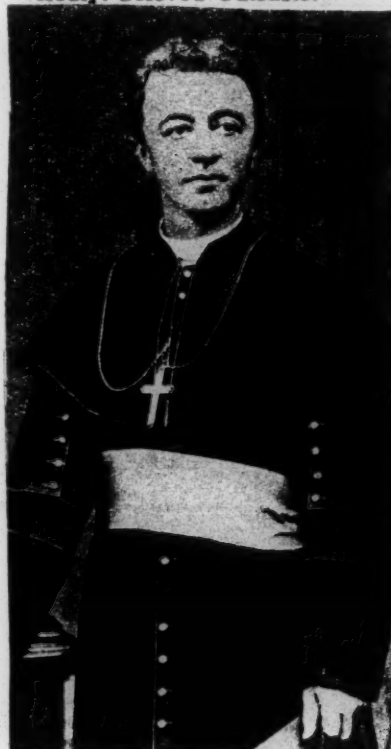
Until the very end of the war, James was still technically a slave. Again, he was racially of "indelicate" origin, as one of his brother clergymen pleasantly remarked to him shortly after Healy was appointed to the episcopate in 1875. He was frankly known to be of Negro origin by old and young in Portland.

The cup of this Irishman-Negro was not sweetened by the fact that the Irish, at that time, were the targets of bitter recriminations by the militantly Protestant elements in New England, and the quondam radical Abolitionists reproached the Roman Catholic immigrants for being in league politically

Father La Farge is the author of a recent autobiography, "The Manner Is Ordinary."

## God's Judgment

NO one can walk through Pompeii without sadness. . . . I believe in the judgment of God upon nations. But over Italy waves not of fiery ashes but of human passions have swept successively. Of ancient Rome, nothing remains but the name and the ruins. But dark, threatening Vesuvius is still there, silent now, but as dreadful, a perpetual reminder that judgment and punishment beyond our power rest with the Lord.—"Bishop Healy: Beloved Outcaste."



Frontispiece from "Bishop Healy: Beloved Outcaste."  
Bishop Healy.

with the former slave-owning elements in the South. In his earlier years Healy revealed just enough of his self to hint that he had faced a bitter struggle in the depths of his soul. Yet he seems to have completely succeeded in keeping his naturally exuberant cheerfulness unscarred. He bequeathed to the people of Portland the memory of a most lovable,

## BISHOP HEALY: BELOVED OUTCASTE

friendly and highly competent spiritual father. A thoroughly great man in his own right, he was the close friend of many notable figures—including Pope Leo XIII and Cardinals Gibbons, Cullen and Manning.

AN old lady from Portland dropped in to see me some ten years ago, just to talk about Bishop Healy and describe how the children loved him and followed him in the street. So I rejoiced at learning that the indefatigable Father Albert S. Foley—Professor of Sociology at Spring Hill College, Alabama—had discovered a cache of material relating to the long-forgotten Bishop, and thus could verify and greatly amplify what hitherto had been only hearsay.

It is significant that Bishop Healy, a good French scholar, went out of his way to care sympathetically for the French-Canadian element in his diocese. He also showed a tender interest for the 300 Negroes in the Portland neighborhood and wisely counseled Negro Catholics in Cincinnati (who had asked his cooperation) not to let themselves be shunted into a separate racial corner but to work for complete integration into the general life of the church and country.

Though James Healy's story contains the seed of drama, the author is satisfied to record it in a quiet, matter-of-fact way, but with many details of ecclesiastical life and policy. He has most efficiently cleared up the mystery of the "Beloved Outcaste." There is unfortunately no index.



**BLACK IS A MAN**

What happens to a white man who actually turns black, especially when the man is one who has always hated Negroes? This is the question posed by Harry Roskolenko in "Black is a Man" (Fadell, \$2). He can't go back to his job, must sneak furtively in and out of his home, loses his wife, can't even cash a check. Eventually, he is suspected of murdering himself, and finally is tried for—~~you guess it~~—rape. The most startling feature of the book is not the inner changes wrought in our hero, but the repercussions of his story, finally revealed on mankind. For the race problem is solved by everyone becoming green.

MARJORIE JACKSON

St. Alban's, N. Y.



## Mississippi Roundup—

**Ex-Grid Star Heads Segregation Group**

INDIANOLA, Miss., Oct. 24 (U.P.)

A 32-year-old red-headed planter who once captained the Mississippi State football team has been selected to call the signals for Mississippi's "Citizens Councils," county organizations dedicated to preserving segregation.

Robert B. Patterson, an ardent exponent of white supremacy, is executive secretary for the councils and will open a full-time office in Winona next month. He has been active for some weeks now in getting council members ready to fight for continued separation of the races.

Councils, composed of white male citizens, now are organized in 25 counties, Patterson said. Every county in the Delta except Coahoma has an organization. The belt of organized counties extends eastward to the Alabama line. Only three in South Mississippi are listed. So far it is chiefly a Delta organization.

Patterson, a hulking 200-pounder who stands six foot two rents 1585 acres of Sunflower County land on which he has been growing cotton for the past four years. He has two daughters and a four-month-old son. Before moving here he farmed at Germantown, Tenn. He is a World War II veteran and was captain of the Mississippi State football team in 1942.

He has 35 Negro tenant families on his plantation. Patterson recommends "Black Monday," a book written by Circuit Judge Tom P. Brady of Brookhaven, asserting that the Supreme Court's anti-segregation decision was a step toward communism.



# BOOK REVIEWS by GERTRUDE MARTIN

"Black Power" is the record of the Richard Wright's trip to the Gold Coast of Africa and his experiences there.

It is an impressive and moving book and one that mirrors the confusion and contradictions that Wright found. As a Negro returning to the land of his ancestors he was often rebuffed and bewildered by the Africans he met.

He feels that he was seeking a spiritual homeland although he states early that he had always rejected the idea of "racial gifts" and "racial heritage." But in Africa as a black man among black men one senses his aloneness and bafflement.

A great deal of "Black Power" is concerned with Kwame Nkrumah, prime minister of the Gold Coast and the leader of the Convention People's party which is struggling for complete self-government.

The record of the growth of the party to a present membership of 400,000 is remarkable in light of British opposition and the fact that its leaders were imprisoned, still they were elected to political office.

Wright describes the passionate zeal of both party leaders and followers and the amazing progress that has been made in welding the people of the Gold Coast into a functioning political entity. But the future is imponderable and much remains to be done.

The author closes his book with a letter addressed to the Prime Minister in which he offers his advice. The following is one of the barriers that he mentions:

"I found only one intangible but vitally important element in the heritage of tribal culture that militated against cohesiveness of action."

"African culture has not developed the personalities of the people to a degree that their egos are stout, hard, sharply defined: There is too much cloudiness in the sodden vagueness that makes for lack of confidence, an absence of focus that renders the mentality incapable of grasping the work-a-day word . . ."

In general Wright found workings of the African mind one of the most difficult aspects of his effort to understand the country and its people.

Though an American Negro and friendly, he did not win the confidence of those he met because of the African's distrust bred partly of his treatment by the British. Yet Wright thought his distrust went even deeper.

The African bourgeoisie, according to Wright, has accepted the British teaching and too often believes that the time is not ripe for major changes.

This rift between the educated African and the masses is often bitter and the former is an unhappy man. He feels more closely allied with the British.

There is a chapter too telling of a fantastic evening Wright spent with a group of British company officials.

"Black Power" is a disturbing book because its author has not been content with easy answers to the problems of the Africans he met on the Gold Coast. He saw the breakdown of tribal customs, the frustration of the people, the great ignorance and poverty, and tremendous task facing the nationalists.

He learned that there is still human sacrifice in some sections and he studied the symbolism of the tribal religion beliefs and customs.

This seems an uneven book reflecting the author's own difficulties and frustrations in finding the information and knowledge he sought.

It is not too hopeful a book, especially as far as the Africans of the Gold Coast are concerned. It is one of the most interesting books on Africa I have read and

in light of the overwhelming importance of that continent today, it should be widely read.

"Black Power," by Richard Wright; Random House; 457

Madison ave., New York 22, N. Y.; 1954; \$3.00.



## Book Review

E. SAUNDERS REDDING

BLACK POWER, by Richard Wright. Harper and Brothers, 49 East 33rd Street, New York. 358 pp. \$4.00.

Richard Wright accepted the personal challenge that the Gold Coast offered him in the same way one might issue a challenge to duel in defense of the honor of his lady-



love — that is to say, with more passion than thought. Black Power is a visceral book.

He begins calmly enough by setting the frame of reference in the struggle against colonialism. Being primarily a writer of fiction, the author chose to do this by the method of presenting a portrait — a telling and substantial portrait, let it be said — of one of the victims of colonialism whose story makes clear the inference that colonialism is the fatal disease of the western world.

BUT THE trouble with the portrait of Justice Thomas is that it is too good. It lures the reader into expectations that Richard Wright fails to fulfill.

Within too short a time one is plunged into the dark complexity, not of the Gold Coast of Africa but of Wright's involvement with his own socio-political orientation and his own philosophical ambivalence.

One cannot see the forest for the trees. What one does see clearly is that Wright, having long since repudiated communism and having recently abjured existentialism, is adrift between the unfulfilled promises of Marxist politics and the unfulfilled principles of democratic dogma.

IT IS partly for this reason that Black Power is so confused a book.

The author is himself confused. He says so time and again: he is "bewildered," "stunned," "thunderstruck" and "dumbfounded" by phenomena — African dancing, African heat, funeral ceremonies, social backwardness — phenomena that, even allowing for his writer's sensitivity, should not have phased him.

His concern with these things, never quite wedded to what is avowedly his chief concern — the socio-political struggle

against colonialism — seems irrelevant.

AND HIS method is another thing that makes for confusion. Without the least warning, Wright jumps back and forth from past tense narration to present transcription of his notes.

On the level of his principal concern, Wright finds the eager political consciousness of the Gold Coast amenable to Marxist analysis, and it is this that makes possible his insights into Africa's political possibilities and her social hazards.

He sees Kwame Nkrumah, Prime Minister of Gold Coast, as a brilliant and conscientious leader, but he does not fail to see the dangers in the veneration the people accord him.

HE MAKES short shrift of the once powerful tribal chiefs, colonialism's henchmen, because he is impatient with their ignorance and their old-fashioned political "morality" which refuses to embrace the concept of freedom.

Wright believes that Africa must be militarized for production and for the sake of strengthening her social and political discipline and accomplishing her cultural independence of both western democracy and communism.

But all in all, Black Power is almost as tortured and torturous as The Outsider, and one can only hope that this is a final purging of confusion, and that from now on Richard Wright can devote himself to the kind of writing that earned him his reputation for brilliance.



Views its problems—

# An American Negro writes about Africa

BLACK POWER, by Richard Wright. (Harper, \$4.)

THE GOLD COAST is a British Colony on the West Coast of Africa, and for sometime has been experimenting with self-government. So much attention has been focused on it that Richard Wright made an extensive tour of the colony. He had interviews with the most intelligent people both Negro and white—with native Christians, with pagan priests and with tribal chiefs.

The fact Wright is a Negro served him well in obtaining materials as the Africans are very distrustful of other races. Included in this book are pertinent, interesting and startling facts on the political economic, social and religious life of the Gold Coast.

The Convention Peoples Party, which grew out of the Gold Coast Youth

Organization is a modern political movement which operates in terms of concepts which the West can understand.

Kwame Nkrumah, the Prime Minister of the Gold



WRIGHT

Coast today, was the spirit of the group.

The clan and the family formed the basis of his drive to power and the success of this coup is due to the fusion of tribalism with modern politics. Nkrumah's aim is to replace the chiefs entirely and the British eventually. This party is opposed

by the "Black Intelligensia," and especially those educated in England.

The Black Power of Africa, as Wright describes it, is her religion and all the taboos connected with it. Although a native may become a Christian and still hold to his pagan or tribal practices, he goes to church to serve God and to the Stool House to worship ancestors. The Africans believe their lives are controlled by juju (a sort of spell or curse). They are ashamed of their religion, yet it is the most basic and far-reaching facet of their lives.

What the future of the Gold Coast will be, disturbed Wright far more than it did the African leaders. They are not sure, yet they do not want help from the outside.—SARAH S. HOOPER, Parker High School.



# Negro Views the Gold Coast

BLACK POWER. By Richard Wright. Harper and Brothers, New York. 351 pages. \$4.00.

"Black Power" is an account of life in the African Gold Coast as seen through the eyes of an American Negro. Richard Wright, author of such best-sellers as "Native Son" and "Black Boy", spent 3 months touring the Gold Coast. His story is full of fascinating information, interjected with his own philosophy, and yet it reads with the ease of a novel.

Africa is on the brink of revolution. In the Gold Coast, Richard Wright found a land of contradictions—college graduates and witch doctors, native politicians and tribal chiefs, magic and Christianity. The country, led by a few educated politicians, is trying to pull out of colonialism and into the modern world. Yet the average native seems far from the 20th century. He shows fear and distrust of strangers, and is childlike in the way he tries to mislead these strangers. He does not think in abstract terms nor project his thoughts into the future. The African is a local person, showing no interest in world affairs. The whole life of the native revolves around a religion based on ancestor worship, superstitions, and taboos. The clan and family spirit is so strong that any money earned is shared by all. The many strange customs are described and explained by Mr. Wright.

Richard Wright gives the history of the Gold Coast, including the history of slavery, since this area is the original home of the American Negro. Throughout, Mr. Wright's intense feeling is clearly felt, yet he writes with restraint. If he is hard on the British, he is equally critical of the black leaders and the native population. He attempts to be fair by using British historians as his sources on the subjects of colonization and the slave trade.

Mr. Wright vividly describes the Gold Coast, its problems, and the progress already made towards independence. In all, it is a well written report on one of the vital parts of the world.

SHIRLEY RUTH TOVE.

## A Struggle for the Black Man Alone!

BLACK POWER. A Record of Reactions in a Land of Pathos. By Richard Wright. 358 pp. New York: Harper & Bros. \$4.00.

By MICHAEL CLARK

IN "Black Power," Richard Wright, the American Negro author of "Native Son" and "The Outsider," reports on a recent visit to the Gold Coast. The Gold Coast has just become the first self-governing territory in British West Africa and now stands on the threshold of independence and dominion status. Put Mr. Wright and the Gold Coast together and what happens? The answer—to be found in "Black Power"—cannot fail to startle anyone interested in Africa and the race problem.

Mr. Wright's reaction to the Gold Coast is soon found to be so passionate and subjective that his book emerges more as a tract than as a considered study. The reader of "Black Power" will be grateful, no doubt, for many fascinating, and even illuminating glimpses of primitive tribal life in a country marked out for picturesque political development. But he will also get a mighty dose of Mr. Wright's own emotional processes.

Mr. Wright was convinced of many things before he ever set out on his African journey—convinced that colonialism was wholly evil, convinced that the redemption of the African could be achieved only through the development of the black state and of black nationalism as a "secular religion." It does not appear to have occurred to him that the two races, black and white, might be able to go it together in Africa, to work out a common destiny on a continent they both have helped to shape. A partnership of this kind is in fact beginning to grow in French territory next door, but Mr. Wright did not go there, and he never so much as alludes to the concept of assimilation, which many hold to offer the best, if not the only, hope for true racial equality and

peaceful "co-existence."

On the contrary, Mr. Wright contends that the Gold Coast must be freed both from its own fetish-ridden past and from the shackles of colonialism by the black man alone. He calls on Prime Minister Kwame Nkrumah of the Gold Coast to catapult his primitive country into the twentieth century even if a generation of black people has to be sacrificed in the process (shades of the Marxist doctrine Mr. Wright has renounced!).

But the white man must go. To Nkrumah he says, "You can pour a libation to the nameless powers that there are no white settlers to be driven out." One wonders to what extent Mr. Wright has projected into the Gold Coast situation his own hidden or sublimated desires for racial revenge. For despite his claim that there is no "race" in his thinking, Mr. Wright did not hesitate to describe himself to an African political meeting as "one of the lost sons of Africa who has come back to look upon the land of his forefathers," and he added: "In terms of a common heritage of suffering and hunger for freedom, your heart and my heart beat as one."

FROM his first day on African soil Mr. Wright was able to find some virtue in everything black but none in anything white. His caricature of British colonialism is drawn, not from life, but from the dreary old arsenal of Marxist slogans. Africa, he says, has been "murdered" by colonialism, which he presents as a sordid, mercantile operation based on plunder and rapine. He observes that "no matter how jaunty the European pretends to be, he cannot rid himself of the idea that what he and his kind are doing is stealing." He explains that the "white man's power is being used to strip him [the African] slowly of his wealth, of his dignity, of his traditions, and of his life." At one point Mr. Wright asserts that if the Africans failed to follow the course

advocated by him, the "British would continue to suck their blood and wax fat."

Mr. Wright does not want the British to stay in the Gold Coast, but gives them no credit for going because in his view their motives are necessarily base. Still less does he concede that the British have any claim to the gratitude of the inhabitants for building the Gold Coast into one of the best administered and most prosperous countries in Africa. His specific for the ills of the Gold Coast is the expulsion of the white man and the establishment, under Nkrumah, of a ruthless dictatorship. African life, he says, must be regimented for the "long pull."

NOTHING could be as grossly unfair as his strictures on the subject of Christian missionary endeavor. He accuses the missionaries of conditioning the African psychologically for colonial bondage. He describes them as neurotics bent on warping the African mind while pursuing their own perverse personal salvation. Anyone at all familiar with the educational and medical work of the missionaries in the Gold Coast will know in what contempt this judgment must be held. Mr. Wright speaks nostalgically of "pre-Christian Africa." Apparently he is unaware that West Africa is being swept not by Christianity but by Mohammedanism.

Mr. Wright lectures the West on fidelity to its own ideas of democracy and freedom and on its duty to Africa, but his voice does not carry the authority that a more balanced appraisal of the situation in the Gold Coast would have given it.

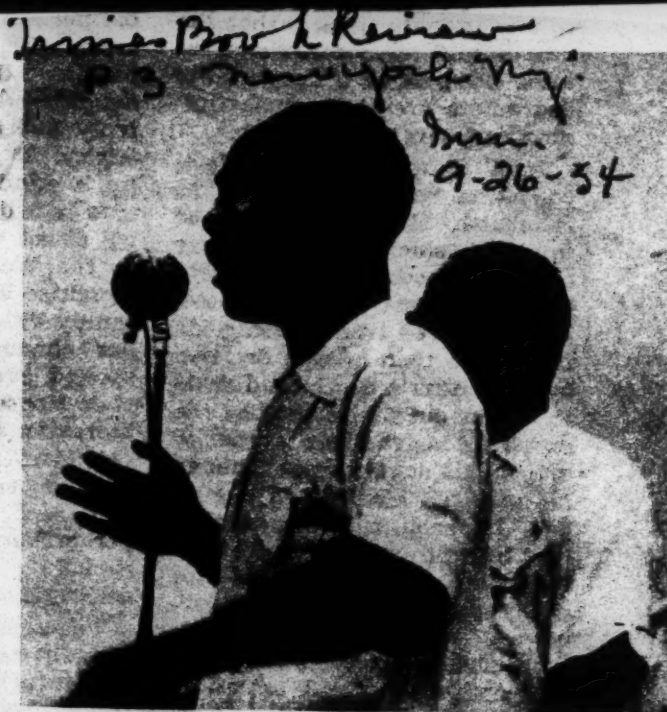




Richard Wright with  
Gold Coast natives  
—"eager, hopeful,  
glad faces whose  
trust tugged at the  
heart . . ."

Kwame Nkrumah,  
Prime Minister of  
the Gold Coast. Will  
he "catapult his prim-  
itive country into the  
twentieth century?"

Some salute, others  
sit by indifferently  
during Nkrumah's  
tour of Accra, Gold  
Coast's capital city.





26b 1954

BLACK WOMAN

**BLACK WOMAN**

A case history may read like a novel. But it is hardly sufficient to transcribe it and submit it to a publisher. Yet that is just about what Arthur Diggs seems to have done. (Exposition Press, \$2.50).

"Black Woman" concerns Nancy, her ten illegitimate children by two fathers, one Negro and one white, and the conflicts arising out of the situation. *Concise*

The situation presented is dramatic (perhaps overly so), as are the incidents described. But the book falls as a novel because it is never more than a bare narrative. Some of the characters are only mentioned by name and physically described. None are developed so that their motivations are understandable. In a book five times as long (it's only forty-three pages) Mr. Diggs might have put flesh on the skeleton of his novel.

MARJORIE JACKSON

St. Albans, N. Y.



# Free Soil Or Slave

**BLEEDING KANSAS.** By Alice Nichols.  
307 pp. New York: Oxford University Press. \$4.50. P. 16

By HENRY F. GRAFF

**B**LEEDING Kansas was the portal to the Civil War. In forcing open the territorial question there in 1854, Stephen Douglas may have focused his eyes on the Presidency, but the chain of events he set in motion had by 1860 foreclosed the possibility of realizing his ambition. It is with those events as they affected Kansas that Alice Nichols is concerned in this, her first book. Convinced that earlier accounts have been written almost exclusively from a Northern viewpoint, she is bent on being fair to the South.

Her overemphasis on the part New Englanders played in Kansas settlement through Eli Thayer's Emigrant Aid Society is misleading. The territory was peopled principally by former residents of the Middle States and the Ohio Valley. They had made up their minds that slavery threatened the freehold farmers, and they determined not to have it in their midst.

Southerners, though, exulted that the popular sovereignty principle opened up to their "peculiar institution" a region they thought had been barred to it forever by the Missouri Compromise. They made a bold bid to take the territory as their own, and the attempt to force Negro bondage into it precipitated the fierce struggle.

**H**ORACE GREELEY, as Miss Nichols notes, considered the "twin curses of Kansas" to have been "Land Speculators and One Horse Politicians." The historian of the West, of course, does not distinguish between the two, but the effect here of treating the politics more fully than the speculation may explain why the bloodshed and vendettas seem often to have been pointless.

The incidents described in this book were indecent. No one in good conscience can condone John Brown's Pottawatomie Creek Massacre which became

an odious symbol of abolitionism; or the slave men's sack of Lawrence which bespoke Southern irrationalism. No one, moreover, would call the free-soilers altruists, for their own Topeka Constitution barred Negroes from the territory.

The Free States, for all their crassness and cupidity, were asserting that slavery extension was wrong while Missourians were offering their lives as hostage to the idea that it must be spread. At the mid-point of the twentieth century it is unbecoming of us to forget the ethical component of the slavery question. The advocates of freedom in Kansas are remembered not only for their avarice and courage but also because by their moral argument they became men forearmed.

BLEEDING KANSAS



**'Body Servant'**

An oppressive anxiety of the Southern people before the Civil War was an uprising of the slaves. As it turned out, with most of the white males away from home in the army, the slaves were remarkably well behaved. More than that, there were many moving examples of the loyalty and affection the simple blacks bore masters: in many cases it was a slave who made his way hundreds of miles to "see after" the body of a fallen Confederate to whose family he belonged; in some cases the slave transported the soldier's corpse upon his back that his widow might give it burial. Out of this tradition, the Butler County poet, Edith Tatum, has written a simple but poignant story of a slave and his master, *Body Servant*. The story is based on an actual experience of the author's father and the stamp of authenticity strengthens the narrative. *Body Servant* first appeared in 1940 and has now been revived by Banner Press.



## Magazine In Braille Only One Of Its Kind

*26b*  
DURHAM, N. H. — One day last March Mrs. E. R. Merrick of Durham received a letter that contained this sentence, "With the March issue of our only Braille magazine in the world about Negroes, I just want to tell you that I have enjoyed it very much and want to stick to your mailing list for another year." *incred*

The writer, who identified himself as Clark W. Noble, 68 Foote Avenue, Pittsfield, Mass., is typical of several correspondents from many parts of the world, who write Mrs. Merrick almost weekly to express appreciation for the publication. *ps 2*

Officially called, "Negro Braille Magazine," the publication answers a long felt need among thousands of handicapped Negro citizens. Some 300 magazines are published annually in Braille in the United States. However, until the appearance of "Negro Braille," in 1952, none of the publications contained information that related primarily to Negroes. *phms 1-21-54*

Since the first issue, the publisher has received more than 200 letters commending her for the magazine. A typical letter is one from the National Institute for the Blind in London. J. E. Jarvis, the institute's international correspondent said in part to the publisher, after receiving a copy of the magazine, "I found this so interesting that I arranged to show it in the very successful Braille Centenary Exhibition."



# Color Line Vanishes in Services

By John G. Norris

Post Reporter

**B**IG news stories don't always break with a flash; sometimes they unveil so gradually you almost miss them. That's what has happened in a silent revolution which has taken place in the armed forces of the United States in the last few years.

This perhaps most conservative segment of our national life has performed a social aboutface and wiped out racial segregation. Acting under orders from the President and Commander in Chief, the services have just about completed the job.

Former President Truman's postwar directive on the subject was, of course, well known. So was the opposition to the move, within and without the services, and so were the forecasts that it would bring race trouble in the ranks and weaken American military power generally.

The news is that it works. If we are to believe the evidence set forth in a revealing new book, the new social pattern is working successfully at military bases both in the North and South, at home and overseas.

## Not Merely Training

**"BREAKTHROUGH on the Color Front,"** by United Press Reporter Lee Nichols (Random House, \$3.50), gives eyewitness pictures of the situation at post's, interviews with men in the ranks and local commanders and quotations from official reports to show that non-segregation is now accepted throughout the services.

He also makes a good case, bolstered by quotes from officers and from an Army survey in Korea, that it has strengthened rather than weakened the United States militarily.

Reporting on visits to many bases in the South, Nichols says:

"Negroes and whites in the armed forces were not just training and fighting together; they were eating at the same tables, sleeping next to one another and drinking beer together at military post canteens. They were going to church and the movies together, often attending the same dances.

"Families of white and Negro service-

men were coming more and more to live next to one another on military reservations. Their wives gossiped over the clothesline and learned to be friendly neighbors. Their children attended schools together on military posts."

**N**ICHOLS says that swimming pools as well as athletics, post canteens and movies at Fort Jackson, S. C., and other Southern bases are completely shared. Two service clubs often are maintained, one largely white and the other largely Negro, but both races are admitted to both clubs.

Mixed dances are "discouraged" or even prohibited at some Southern bases, but mingling of Negro and white couples at canteens and soda fountains was reported by Nichols.

The 234-page book traces the history of the Negro in the armed forces, showing that segregation was the pattern until the latter days of World War II. The Navy, under the late Secretary James Forrestal, was the first to establish racial integration. It works satisfactorily, but half of the Navy's 23,000 Negroes are messmen and still are segregated in fact.

The Air Force integrated next. It succeeded, says Nichols, because Air Secretary Stuart Symington called in his generals and told them to "stop the double talk and act." There were a few crackdowns, and then the order was accepted. Today, the 66,000 USAF Negroes are completely integrated.

Army chiefs, however, protested that the military services should not be "an instrument of social evolution" and strongly resisted the President's policy. Not until Korea did segregation start to become a fact.

## Speeded Up Training

**C**URIOSLY, the first big break in segregation came at Fort Jackson, S. C. Faced with a heavy influx of recruits and mounting demands from the front, Brig. Gen. Frank McConnell, the commander, tried integration on his own initiative to speed up training. It worked.

In Korea, some division commanders started integrating their units and reported that the men fought well. But

Gen. Douglas MacArthur's headquarters stopped the experiment, Nichols reports.

Later, under Gen. Mathew B. Ridgway, all-Negro units were broken up. After the resulting mixed units had been fighting for some time, interview teams were sent out to question battalion and company commanders.

"Of 185 officers who completed the forms," Nichols reports, "majorities of 66 to 90 percent rated Negroes in mixed units 'about on a par' with white soldiers on nearly every one of 28 aspects of combat behavior.

"On the crucial test of standing up to mass attack, where Negro soldiers in the past had sometimes broken and run, 85 percent of the officers found that Negroes in mixed units performed 'about the same' as white soldiers."

## Rated by Buddies

**T**HE survey teams also questioned 1563 white and 221 Negro soldiers in integrated infantry squads scattered through four divisions. The white soldiers reported they had observed "slightly more instances of good morale, courage and judgment" among whites than Negroes; about the same number of instances of lack of courage and poor judgment, and slightly fewer specific cases of poor morale among Negroes.

The never released survey, said Nichols, found that 11 to 15 percent of the men who had served in integrated units rated mixed units superior in morale to all-white units. The explanation offered for this feeling and for the great improvement among Negro soldiers assigned to integrated units: The Negro gains pride and self-respect and both whites and Negroes are "put on their mettle."

Today, less than 10,000 of the Army's 200,000 Negroes are in segregated units and all, say Pentagon chiefs, will be integrated by this summer.

Next on the list of integration advocates, he adds, is "upgrading" of the Pentagon's Negro civilian workers, who are almost entirely in the low-pay brackets; ending of segregation in the National Guard, and breaking up of the solidly Negro messmen's branch of the Navy.

The success of integration in the armed forces, the author believes, has

changing race attitudes of youths leaving the services, and by its influence on communities near military posts.

brought these important results:

1. It has blunted Russia's best propaganda weapon among the colored populations of the world.
2. It has increased our military power and potential by more efficient use of our manpower. Army leaders generally were right, Nichols concludes, in branding all-Negro combat units "unreliable." The evidence from Korea, he says, is that integrated fighting units there were largely on a par with all-white units.
3. It has hastened the abolition of segregation in civilian life: by example; by

An account of the Army's fight against segregation is told by Lee Nichols, United Press Washington correspondent, in his forthcoming book, "Breakthrough on the Color Front." Mr. Nichols has based his book on interviews with military and political leaders, visits to many Army bases and on "long-secret" military documents. The book will be published by Random House on Feb. 15.



A reviewer's praise—

**'It says what it  
set out to say'**

**BREAKTHROUGH ON THE COLOR FRONT**, by Lee Nichols.  
(Random, \$3.50)

26-1-  
THE STORY OF the integration of American Negroes in U. S. armed forces is still going on. It appears that it will have a happy ending. This reviewer is as conscious as are many Southerners of the considerable dissatisfaction among whites of his region that this is so. But in uniform, the color of the skin does in fact become much less important than it manifestly seems in civilian life. Some say that this does not mean segregation can be broken down outside the services, but it is also fact that it is being broken down, and current hullabaloo about "if" the Supreme Court does thus and so is adequate evidence that even pro-segregation Southerners see the handwriting on the wall. Not all the erasers in Dixie can wipe it out.

LEE NICHOLS is a United Press reporter in Washington who, interested in the flow of news across his desk about segregation and its elimination in the services, decided to make a more detailed study of the problem. His book is not shocking, but it is a sound chronological study from the earliest days in America of the uses of Negro soldiers and sailors. He seeks, obviously, to prove that integration is working as it is, and I have a feeling he tends to skim over negative evidences in some cases in favor of the positive.

Through World War I and II, Negroes were almost exclusively segregated. When put into all-Negro combat teams, they often broke and ran. That was true in France, in Italy and in the South Pacific. But the odds were against Negroes in such cases, the same records show—they felt cut off; their white officers usually hated their assignments, and Negroes who had been trained for fighting often wound up for long periods doing the toughest menial service. Segregation of fighting men proved, itself, that segregation wasn't effective. If manpower was fully to be used, it had to be on a non-segregated basis. That has been tried in

Korea, and it has worked.

THE EFFORT TO eliminate segregation in the armed services was, principally, a consequence of political pressure. But Mr. Nichols shows that a number of professional officers were instrumental in making the policy work.

The book discusses the problem of non-segregation on posts, and segregation off, in the South. There is a section on non-segregated post schools, on the continuing problem of white and Negro dependents and friends intermingling on posts, and some comment on the turning back of Soviet anti-democratic charges against the U. S. for past policies.

This is a brief volume, but it says what it sets out to say. Some will contend, undoubtedly, that it proves nothing as to the matter of segregation outside the armed forces, but to me it says a great deal.—E. L. HOLLAND JR.

Petroleum products from different fields vary widely in the nature and proportion of the compounds they contain.

**'Breakthrough on the Color Front'**

# End of Military Bias

Courier P. 4 Pittsburgh, Pa.  
**Described in New Book**

WASHINGTON — The U. S. White House official, to "tell Anderson of the President's strong belief that all military segregation must be ended." armed forces have wiped out segregation in a "racial about-face unparalleled by any similar development in modern history," according to Lee Nichols, United Press Washington correspondent, whose book, "Breakthrough on the Color Front," was published last week by Random House, Inc., New York.

"A dozen years ago, segregation of Negroes was the rule in virtually all branches of the service," says Nichols. "Most military leaders expected — many wanted — it to stay that way for a long time to come."

"Yet in 1953 segregation had been officially discarded, and integration of all service of whatever race or nationality, was the firm policy of every branch of the military service."

Nichols, who tells for the first time the behind-the-scenes story of how this remarkable transformation occurred, literally unknown to the public at large, was given access to hundreds of long-secret military documents never before divulged. In addition, he interviewed military and political leaders from former President Truman down, and visited military bases throughout the South to get the authentic picture of the military racial situation today.

He says that although he could find no evidence that Dwight D. Eisenhower sought directly to end segregation as a military leader, "after his election (to the Presidency), Eisenhower took active steps to carry out his campaign promise to end all remaining military segregation."

The author relates that when Navy Secretary Robert B. Anderson indicated early in 1953 that he would not alter the existing Navy policy of permitting segregation of civilian facilities in Southern Navy bases, Eisenhower directed Maxwell M. Rabb, a



**Even Demagogues Shun It**

# Racism Fading Fast in America

Reviewed by John Barkham  
Saturday Review Staff Writer

**THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.** By Oscar Handlin. Harvard. 244 pp. \$3.75.

IT MAY WELL BE that a generation from now, when our descendants look over our record, they may feel none too proud of the way we conducted this Nation's affairs. In our dealings with other countries, we seem to have lost more friends than we gained, while in our dealings with one another we seem to have split ourselves down the middle on so many issues where unity was needed.

But in one respect—and it is a fundamental one going right down to our roots as a Nation—we have done a great deal better in the first half of this century than perhaps we realize.

We have come appreciably closer to our proclaimed ideal of equality for all Americans and prejudice against none. Especially in the past decade there has been accelerated progress in that direction, with the recent Supreme Court decision against racially segregated education as the latest in a series of forward steps.

This gratifying advance toward mature nationhood is clearly underlined in Oscar Handlin's new book, which is a significant analysis of our race patterns and strains in the last 50 years.

THE OLD HATES brought here from "the other side" melted fast in the sunshine of Americanism. Even two world wars and a prolonged depression couldn't revive racism to any lasting extent. Of course, there were painful exceptions, but generally speaking, racist conceptions have become the province only of unheeded crackpots.

Now Handlin notes another interesting phenomenon.

"Demagogues as unscrupulous as any in American history had begun to spread other kinds of fear," he writes, referring to the present in the historian's past tense. "But significantly they meticulously avoided attacks on the minorities and rather sought to win them over."

"Indeed, McCarran, McCarthy, Cohn and the like were themselves but a generation removed from the persecuted groups; and every well equipped staff required a Catholic, a Jew or a Negro in its entourage to demonstrate its freedom from prejudice. That was an indication of the extent to which the position of the minorities had been transformed."

There are many things about ourselves in this tightly packed, closely reasoned book we may deplore, but its general conclusion is one to be thankful for. Our leaders may not be doing as well by us as they might, but the people are unmistakably learning how to act like a grown-up Nation.



# Fashioned In Battle

BREAKTHROUGH ON THE COLOR FRONT. By Lee Nichols. 235 pp. New York: Random House. \$3.50.

By S. L. A. MARSHALL

BY producing a first-class study of a major problem in American race relationships Lee Nichols, who works the night desk for The United Press in Washington, has demonstrated that any time a good reporter aspires to write a book he will find rich material kicking around underfoot.

Some months ago he read a casual press release from the Pentagon which put him on the trail of what he calls "one of the biggest stories of the twentieth century." Potentially it warrants no lesser description. He followed it through the bureaus, reading staff papers and interviewing hundreds of officials until he had collected most of the main facts. His book tells how, under the pressures of the Korean war, the United States armed establishment, almost unnoticed, achieved the long-awaited reform and made an end to military race segregation.

Also, to measure the significance of this heralded victory, the reporter turned historian. How things stand today—and except for a few marginal discriminations which will shortly pass the services now adhere to a standard of equal treatment—is profiled against the prolonged struggle toward that object.

Mr. Nichols traces the long story of the Negro's participation in the American armed forces from that day in 1770 when the Negro Crispus Attucks was the first person shot and one of five killed at the Boston Massacre that preceded the Revolution. Negroes fought in all our wars, he reminds us—the Revolution, War of 1812, Civil War, Spanish-American and both world wars. And he shows how in these conflicts and the peacetime years between Negroes made slow but steady progress toward full in-



Pilots of the 8th Fighter Bomber Wing at a briefing in Korea, January, 1953.

tegration in Army, Navy and Air Force. An important factor in the advance was President Truman's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services.

BY 1953, Mr. Nichols says, "The racial barrier had been virtually wiped out in the Air Force and in the Navy outside the almost entirely Negro Steward's Branch. The Army was far along the road to elimination of its all-Negro units \*\*\* There were no longer any all-Negro Marine units."

To most Americans that part of the Nichols story which is newsworthy will come as a heartening revelation. Couple it with the announcement from Tuskegee Institute that it has quit publishing the Lynch Letter because lynchings are no longer an index to race relations in the United States; the two together suggest that we may be doing much better than we know. Neither item is likely of publication in the Soviet press. But since the pivotal events of which Nichols writes occurred three years ago, and



Time-out in Korea, July, 1953.

until now the nation has had only small bites of the story, there is room for remark that on the home front we are extravagantly wasteful of our own

successes.

It is in the backward glances that Mr. Nichols, though ardent toward his subject and excep-

tionally sympathetic toward the services, fails somewhat of objectivity in relating why things did not move faster. There is

ordeal by fire, all concerned rallied to the opportunity, though some were slower to see it than others. Had there not been abundant goodwill, the Far East Command would not have formed its policy, nor could its example have inspired like action elsewhere.

True progress within a General Staff is possible only when a case can be made on the basis of superior data; then all doors swing open. But it is a truly felicitous thing that a nation can change its ways because of the deathless courage of a few mixed rifle squads in the nameless ridges north of Parallel 38.

that I always found goodwill toward the object among my superiors and associates in the Army, and that where action was slowed it was because of reasonable doubt that a valid opportunity existed. In calling the Army the mule of the service team prior to Korea, Nichols would seem to imply that it was least-willing to undertake social reform. That discounts wholly the great difference between Army relationships with the people and those of other services. It is a much more sensitive body because of size and propinquity; its relative social inertia is inherent in its role.

In Korea success was made possible by failure. There was a critical shortage of white rifle replacements. Integration was mothered by necessity. Once it had proved good under

insufficient recognition that the problem was vast indeed, that time itself had to provide part of the solution, and that the retarded pace was due less to mean prejudice within the military structure than to the mountainous social obstacles which lay without. Because my name and role find mention in the book, some personal reflection should be I would simply bear witness



# Issues Negro

## History

### Calendar

*Defender*  
*Chicago, Ill.*  
*Sat. 2-6-54*  
A new calendar of Negro and American history will be released Feb. 7 by the House of Knowledge, 3806 S. Michigan blvd., Chicago.

*P. 2*  
The new calendar lists important dates and events in past history and gives background information on prominent figures of today.

It contains pictures of more than 200 persons prominent in Negro history and culture.



# New Book On Carver To Be Published

HAMILTON, OHIO — Broadcasting a feature story in connection with the celebration of George Washington Carver Day, January 5, Radio station WMOH of Hamilton, Ohio announced the coming of a new book entitled: "Dr. Carver's Bible Class"—A Recipe For Happiness—by Alvin D. Smith, soon to be published by the Exposition Press, Inc., 386 Fourth Ave., New York.

Smith is editor and founder of the Butler County American published at Hamilton, said to be the only county seat Negro weekly in the nation. He is a graduate of Tuskegee Institute and for four years was a student in Dr. Carver's volunteer Bible Class at the school. The book is written from notes made while attending the class.

It was in Carver's Bible Class where the Wizard of Tuskegee taught a religious philosophy for everyday living—how he contacted and tuned in "Our Creator" to do the great work that he did as a scientist, discovering hundreds of products from the peanut and sweet potato.

Although Dr. Carver's great work as a scientist will continue to bring food and materials to man down thru the ages, his religious philosophy, appearing for the first time in Smith's book will be of still greater benefit. These essays in everyday religion give to all who read them—regardless of their activity, race, color—the key by which to obtain prosperity, peace of mind, happiness and success in life.

Some chapter titles are: Where and What is Thy Creator—How to

Contact thy Creator—Giving and Receiving—Noah and the Law of Balance—Heaven and Hell Explained, Race Hate, David and Goliath, Protect Your Country and Your Future—No Need to Fear Death, The Bible as A Guide to Health and others.

Smith said, from the interest shown by so many people who have learned of it, appears that the first edition will be an early sell out. The Exposition Press notified him that the price will be \$2.50.

The late Henry Ford once said: "Dr. Carver had the brain of a scientist and the heart of a saint." This book so well proves that.

## Carver Bible Class Cited

HAMILTON, Ohio — Alvin D. Smith, editor and founder of the Butler County American here has authored a new book entitled, "Dr. Carver's Bible Class."

The book soon will be published by the Exposition Press, Inc., 386 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y. Mr. Smith, a graduate of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, was a student in the late George Washington Carver's Bible Class. Mr. Smith's book is written from notes he made while attending the class.

Dr. Carver's Bible Class taught his students a religious philosophy for everyday living.



## Book Of Alumni To Be Published

### LINCOLN UNIVERSITY POETS

a Centennial Anthology containing the work of alumni who have distinguished themselves in the field of poetry will be published by The First Editions Press of New York on May 1st.

Edited by Langston Hughes, Waring Cuney, and Bruce McM. Wright, the volume carries a Foreword by Dr. Horace Mann Bond, President of the University and an Introduction by J. Saunders Redding, Professor of English at Hampton Institute.

Contributors include William Allyn Hill, Edward Silvera, H.A.B. Jones-Quartey, and B. Tolson and others. There is also a representative selection from the published work of the three editors.

### LINCOLN UNIVERSITY POETS

is the first Anthology to be published for the University since its founding, 100 years ago, in Pennsylvania.



## Champagne Before Breakfast

# Champions I've Met: *Herald Tribune* Stagestruck Boxers

By Hy Gardner

This is the sixth in a series of articles condensing the book "Champagne Before Breakfast," by Hy Gardner.

It's always been a close kinship between boxing and show business, and the popularity of televised bouts has knitted the two professions together even more closely.

Bob Christenberry, New York boxing commissioner, always chortles with glee when he points up this kinship with the story of a referee giving two boxers their pre-fight instructions. "Fight clean, men," he said, "break when I tell you, and at all times face camera No. 1."

All the way back to the era of John L. Sullivan and Jim Corbett the cauliflower-eared fraternity has tried to spring from the ring onto the vaudeville or cafe stage. One of the first to double as champ and actor was Jack Dempsey. He played the Palace in his heyday, in a sketch called "Gas Station."

### Stage Lures Fighters

Max Baer, when he held the heavy title, strolled onstage at the New York Paramount dressed to kill. His trick of wearing white tie and tails in lieu of boxing togs so intrigued the patrons that his appearance broke a long-standing record of that famous theater.

Rocky Graziano even had his profile prettied to become a TV thespian and made his debut playing Margaret Truman's boy friend on the Martha Raye show. Another top boxer, Jake LaMotta, also donned the grease paint.

Bob Olin, ex-light-heavy champ, is busy on radio, TV and benefits, in addition to running a successful New York restaurant.

The late Benny Leonard, when he wasn't refereeing, earned a fair living playing vaudeville. Benny never missed a chance to tell his pet story, about the time he entered a ring, removed his robe and heard the audience

scream. "It wasn't my popularity," he'd explain. "I just forgot to put on my trunks!"

### Allergic to Sugar

The night after Sugar Ray Robinson decisively licked Steve Belloise, the latter strolled into Toots Shor's eating and gabbing emporium, and was joined a moment later by the proprietor. "Tell me Steve, what happened?" the genial host inquired.

"Nothing to tell," Belloise grinned sheepishly, "the only time I touched Sugar was when we shook hands."

Of the modern crop of champs, I suppose Tony Canzoneri has played the greatest number of vaudeville and club dates. Teamed with singer Mark Plant and comedian Joey Adams, Canzoneri finally split up the act. He got tired of being slapped every time Joey wanted a laugh. Whenever Adams acted slap-happy, Tony would look at him, shake his head and say, "I've been in more than 2,000 fights—what's your excuse?"

Another character who holds forth at Toots' is George Solitaire, the ticket broker who roomed with Joe DiMaggio until the latter made a decided improvement by signing up Marilyn Monroe as a roommate. George was sitting around listening to a hypochondriac actor who bragged that at one time or another he'd been a patient at practically every hospital in the city of New York. "There's one place you've never been, I'll bet," George sniped, "Woman's Hospital."

"You lose," shouted the actor. "I was born there!"

Herman Hickman's favorite incident concerns the time his Yale team was playing Princeton and everything went wrong. Yale would make an off-tackle play and be penalized fifteen yards.

After suffering half-a-dozen penalties, Hickman forgot himself and screamed to his full-back, "Kill the ball!"—resulting in a ten-yard penalty for "coaching from the sidelines."



Sugar Ray Robinson—one of the champions who leaped from the ring to footlights.

### Hickman Gets a Break

Hickman called the referee a dumb cluck and asked him if he didn't cheat himself, that "coaching from the sidelines," called for a fifteen-yard penalty, not ten. "For your kind of coaching," the ref said sarcastically, "ten yards is enough!"

Billy Martin, the Yankee hero of the 1953 World Series, now a Yank with the Army, was giving Yogi Berra a lecture on keeping up appearances. Holding up Yogi's patched traveling bag, Billy said, "Yog, you ought to be ashamed carrying such a shabby bag. Why don't you buy a new one? They're only around ten bucks. Remember you're a Yankee, it's unbecoming to carry that kind of luggage."

"So what," Yogi grunted, "I only use it when I travel."

On another occasion I ran into

## CHAMPAGNE BEFORE BREAKFAST

Yogi at Toots Shor's and checked with him about a rumor that he was becoming an art collector, that he'd been seen shopping at Dick Kollmar's Little Gallery in the Carlton House.

"What's a paint gallery?" Yogi inquired. "The only new painting we done this year I did myself. It was on the outside of my house!"

### A Strange Greens Fee

Golf is a game which inspires either fanatical love or complete indifference. Among the fanatics was a wealthy manufacturer friend of Irving Geist's, the philanthropist, who was such an aficionado that he insisted that his wife, due to have a baby any moment, accompany him to his club. "You may as well come along, dear," he said, "the Doc's going to be one of the foursome." While they were on the fifth tee, a caddy came rushing to the group. "Better hurry back to the clubhouse," the kid shouted breathlessly, "your wife says junior won't wait."

They rushed back to the clubhouse and the doctor delivered a highly satisfactory baby boy. When the bill came, the new father called up to remonstrate. "Doc," he complained, "are you charging me for delivering the

kid, or does the bill include his college education?" In the end he lost, "Okay, I'll pay," he declared, "but send me another bill, and instead of marking it 'delivery' mark it 'annual greens fee,' that way I can take it off my income tax."

Frank Mencke tells this one about Willie Macfarlane, the old-time pro, who was something of a joker. On a short 135-yard hole, par three, just as he was putting, another ball came over the slight knoll on the green. Willie kicked the other ball into the cup and grinned at his companions. Let's give this guy the thrill of a lifetime—he'll think he made a hole in one. A few minutes later the lucky player ambled up to the green, followed Willie's eyes to his ball in the cup, and yelled excitedly to his partner, "Look, Louie, I made it in six."

### An "Ike" Favorite

Bob Brumby, the sports writer, claims that this is the golf story that invariably makes President Eisenhower grin. It concerns a golf pro, who was convicted of bashing his wife in the head with a No. 2 iron (the right club for



Herman Hickman in his days as coach of The Blue.

mer size head, incidentally) and sentenced to die by hanging. A few minutes before the grim event was scheduled to take place, the warden asked the fellow if he had one last request. "Yes, sir," replied the doomed golfer, "if you don't mind I'd like to take a few practice swings."

Another golfer friend of mine, Tony Sweet, hasn't been able to play much golf since taking over the Shoremede Hotel in Miami Beach. To keep in practice, Tony buys hundreds of lost-and-found balls from driving ranges and other sources for five or six cents each. Promptly at five every afternoon he tees them up on his beach front, and drives the balls into the Atlantic. One day a pair of newlyweds from the Midwest watched Tony indulging in his extravagant exercise and asked how much he paid for the balls. "Ah, they're regular dollar balls," Tony answered nonchalantly.

"No wonder you charge so much room rent," the groom

grunted, "you now have our notice—we're checking out tomorrow!"

Copyright 1954 by Hy Gardner

Tomorrow: Hy Gardner takes you to Broadway, Hollywood, and even to the "Groucho" for some top show business stories.

From the book "Champagne Before Breakfast," published by Henry Holt & Co., New York N. Y.



26b 1954

# CHANGING AFRICA

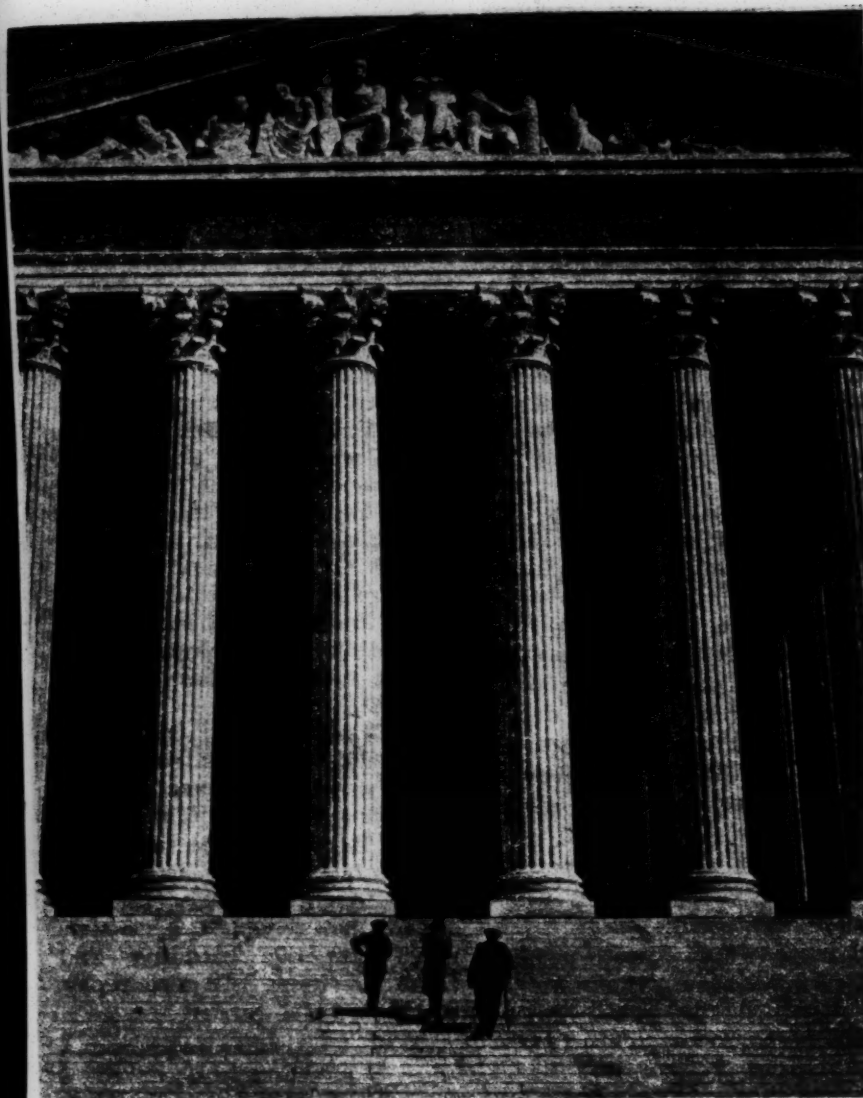
Interested in Africa? Then you'll be interested in an extremely informative booklet, "Changing Africa," put out by the British Information Services, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York 20, N. Y. An excellent picture of Africa today.

26b 1954

# CIVIL LIBERTIES CRISIS

SOUTH AND CENTRAL AFRICA, edited by H. C. G. Meek (McGraw-Hill, \$6.50). Travel guide to the World in Africa. THE BUTCHER'S WIFE, by Owen Carter (Simon & Schuster, \$2.50). Sanctum detective story. *Done*  
THE CIVIL LIBERTIES CRISIS, by Corniss Lamont (Basic Pamphlets, Box 42, Cathedral Station, New York 25, 10 cents). Revised and rewritten edition of pamphlet first published in 1952.





Entrance to the United States Supreme Court.

## Seven Years of Decision

**CIVIL LIBERTIES AND THE VINSON COURT.** By C. Herman Pritchett. 297 pp. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. \$5.

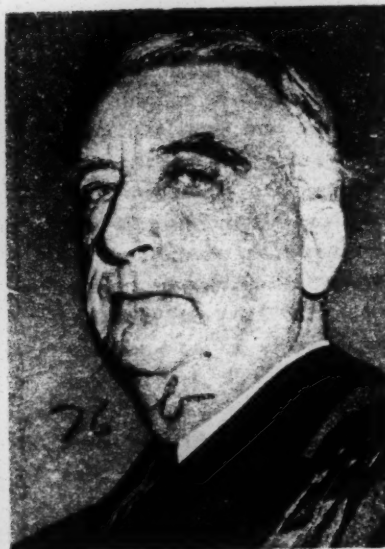
By ROBERT K. CARR

FRED M. VINSON served as the twelfth\* Chief Justice of the United States for seven years, during almost the same period that his good friend Harry Truman occupied the White House. Throughout these years the personnel of the Supreme Court remained relatively stable. Death removed Justices Murphy and Rutledge in 1949 and their places were taken by Justices Clark and Minton. But six other justices—Black, Reed, Frankfurter, Douglas, Jackson and Burton—served throughout the Vinson period. Thus, while death

brought an early end to the Vinson Chief Justiceship and left unsolved many of the constitutional problems of the era, C. Herman Pritchett has good reason for attempting to tell the story of what he chooses to call "the Vinson Court".

Moreover, he has wisely chosen to limit his excellent volume to the court's work in the civil liberty area. The Vinson court heard many important cases in other areas of law, but in the end the civil liberty ones dominated the period. In this volume Mr. Pritchett, who is Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago, follows the pattern of his earlier work, "The Roosevelt Court."

He first of all supplies a very



Fred M. Vinson,  
Chief Justice, 1946-1953.

careful summary of Supreme

\*Mr. Vinson would be considered the thirteenth Chief Justice if John Rutledge is included. Rutledge served one term in 1795 but was not confirmed by the Senate.

Court decisions during the seven-year period. In seven exceedingly well-written chapters, decisions affecting free speech, Congressional inquiries into subversive activity, the rights of aliens and citizens, the race problem and criminal procedure are explained and evaluated. These chapters provide the general reader with by far the best analysis of the recent law of civil liberty that has come to this reviewer's attention. Mr. Pritchett has a gift for putting difficult legal concepts into simple, intelligible and interesting language. Yet he never sacrifices accuracy or sound scholarship to the needs of popular writing.

MR. PRITCHETT then employs the tools of quantitative research to keep a "box score" on the eleven justices of the Vinson court, dividing them, in effect, into conservative and liberal factions, depending upon where they stood in civil liberty cases. This particular approach to the work of the Supreme Court, which Mr. Pritchett also employed in his earlier volume, has stirred a good deal of controversy. Many critics of the method argue that attempts to count judicial heads as "for" or "against" civil liberty necessarily involve oversimplification

and are bound to prove misleading.

It is not surprising that Mr. Pritchett should make use of this second book to reply to his critics. To this reviewer, the reply seems calm, modest and highly persuasive and seems to demonstrate beyond all doubt that the method of quantitative analysis is an exceedingly useful tool in this area of research and writing. For one thing it clearly reveals that in a majority of the civil liberty cases decided by the Vinson court, civil liberty came off the loser. Moreover, it was the four Truman appointees, Vinson, Burton, Clark and Minton, joined by one Roosevelt justice, Reed, who formed the court's anti-libertarian majority.

It is one of the ironies of recent history that a President who more than almost any of his predecessors seemed to reveal an intelligent concern for the expansion and protection of civil liberty in America should have been responsible for weakening the final and greatest bastion of civil liberty. That the tragic loss of such stalwarts in the struggle for civil liberty as Justices Murphy and Rutledge should have led to the naming of Justices Clark and Minton has been a particularly bitter pill to swallow. Oh, what a falling-off was there!

Mr. Pritchett is no starry-eyed liberal, however. In dispassionate, almost hardboiled fashion, he analyzes civil liberty cases and shows that the business of finding a satisfactory working balance between the interests of individual freedom and the demands of the general welfare and of national security is never an easy undertaking. The justice who comes out of a difficult case on the side of authority rather than liberty frequently has Mr. Pritchett's sympathy and understanding.

Yet the author does not hesitate to speak strong words of condemnation where he feels that they are deserved. Often he finds the justices bending too easily with the winds of hysteria and emotion to sur-

render basic freedoms to authoritarian demands. Indeed, his final plea is for a renewed and courageous exercise of the power of judicial review by the Supreme Court to curb the current excesses of both legislators and administrators that are so gravely endangering our great liberties.

Mr. Carr is Joel Parker, Professor of Law and Political Science at Dartmouth.



# Two-Year Republican Rule Weighed by NAACP Director

leaders, and the leadership of the minority party."

## Anti-Bias Action Lauded

President Eisenhower is praised in the report for action against segregation in Naval shore establishments, in schools on military posts, and in the armed services generally. Attorney General ~~Robert Brownell~~ *Robert Brownell* is credited for participation in the public school segregation cases and for his refusal to appoint anti-civil rights officials on two occasions.

Veterans Administrator ~~Harvey Highley~~ *Harvey Highley* is praised for his action ending segregation in Veterans hospitals but Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby, secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, is mentioned as one of the persons who sought to block the ending of segregation in schools on military posts.

Commissioners of the District of Columbia are cited for their prompt action to enforce laws forbidding segregation in restaurants after the Supreme Court held that such laws are valid. The commissioners also are lauded for ending racial segregation in the District of Columbia fire department.

Remaining trouble spots in the executive branch, the report points out, include the Bureau of Printing and Engraving, where employment discrimination still exists, and the Naval Base at Bainbridge, Md., where officials have violated President Eisenhower's non-discrimination orders by barring colored children from a school on the post. The housing policies of government are listed as a force in promoting racial segregation.

While the legislative roadblock to civil rights remained unchanged during two years of Republican control in Washington, "substantial steps in the direction of full democracy for all" were made by the executive branch of the government, according to a report on Civil Rights Under the Eisenhower Administration, 1953-54 issued this week by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. *State Press 8-54*

The report, prepared by Clarence Mitchell of the association's Washington Bureau, lists important gains made thru executive action and charges that "the failure to pass any civil rights legislation during this session of Congress must be shared by the Administration, its congressional



# Dr. Thomas W. Turner *After American* P. 8 in visit to Baltimore

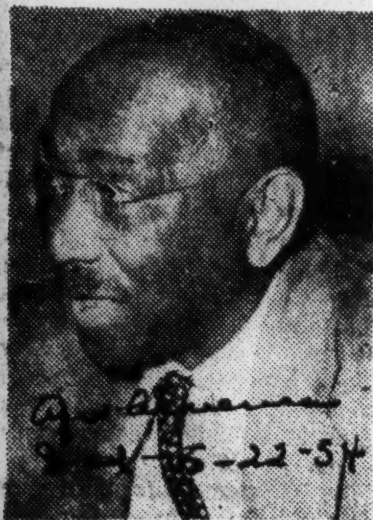
## BALTIMORE

Dr. Thomas W. Turner, retired professor of biology at Hampton Institute, was in Baltimore this week.

Dr. Turner taught at Douglass High School under Principal J. H. N. Waring during the golden era of the high school.

Some of his associates were Dr. D. O. W. Holmes and Mrs.

1915 to date—is yet to come.  
Dr. Turner is also working on his memoirs.



## DR. THOMAS W. TURNER

Holmes, Mrs. Turner, Dan Brooks, Ralph Cook, Joshua Maxwell, Jessie Fausett, Louise Palm, Joseph Lockerman and J. R. Paul Brock.

At Hampton, Dr. Turner did special work on improving the potato, and, by crossing selected cotton seed, produced a variety that bore five locks to the boll.

He also experimented with corn — black, sweet corn and white corn, to produce a new variety of white sweet corn.

For almost a year he was in Texas setting up a biology department for the new Texas State College there.

## Works On 2 Books

Since his retirement, Dr. Turner is working on two books. One is "The Colored Catholic In the United States, His Heritage, His Besetments, and His Social and Spiritual Progress."

The second is "From The Earliest Exploration of Catholics in This Country to 1915." The first part of this book has been finished: the second part—from





In a month on the Zambezi, Dempster shot 100 crocodiles, later vanished

## 'Burned With a Fever'

Lawrence Earl's "Crocodile Fever" is a factual account of a man named Bryan Herbert Dempster, who killed his first crocodile in 1932, when he was 8 years old, grew up to make a career of killing crocodiles, and vanished a short time ago, probably somewhere beyond Lake Nyasa. The book is illustrated with some striking photos of crocodile hunting, which is all to the good, for otherwise much that it says might be skeptically received. Earl first heard Dempster on a BBC program. A journalist who specializes in firsthand accounts of dramatic action, as in "Yangtze Incident," Earl felt that he could not pass up "the story of this strange and tortured man, who burned with a fever of his own choice."

Dempster began in 1947 with £500 (borrowed), starting up the Zambezi with two Zulu boys and his terrier. He killed a hundred crocodiles in his first

month, but recovered only fifteen skins. Crocodiles are warned of an approaching hunter by the African plover. Hunting at night, with a lamp, Dempster cleared £104 in three months of risk and hardship, moved to Southern Rhodesia and cleared about £3,000, then disappeared after trying unsuccessfully to raise money to start a crocodile farm.

Like most of the new documentary biographies, the book is filled with embarrassing, novel-like details on marriage, drinking, and domestic struggles. They are intended to show the strength of Dempster's obsessed pursuit of the monstrous saurians but they give the reader a sense of intruding on purely family matters. (CROCODILE FEVER. By Lawrence Earl. 293 pages. Knopf. \$3.95.)



# 'My Destiny Was to Go'

THE DARK CHILD. By Camara Laye. Translated from the French by James Kirkup, Ernest Jones and Elaine Gottlieb. 188 pp. New York: The Noonday Press. \$2.75.

By PETER ABRAHAM

MANY important facets of the African problem are generally pushed into the background, or else completely obscured, by the dominating problem of the conflict of color. Yet it may be that when historians of the future look back to the present period in African history they may decide that the conflict of culture in Africa—the great psychological and emotional turmoil in the hearts and minds of individuals in transition from the age-old tribal, communal values to the new Western individualist values—was, at the very least, as important as the conflict of color.

Camara Laye's autobiography invites such reflections. There is no hint of the color conflict in Laye's book because there was no color problem where he was born and grew up and went to school. The point of conflict was between Laye and his mother, whom he loved and who loved him dearly: the conflict was between the tribal past where his mother was and the technological present that she watched helplessly as it took him slowly but certainly away from her.

Laye was born in a round mud hut at Kouroussa, which is in the hinterland of French Guinea. His people were of the Malinké tribe. And they were Moslem by faith. His father was a goldsmith, and was also head of the cluster of round mud huts that made up their cantonment. A railway track passed near the cluster of huts.

Laye's mother was an impressively dignified woman, lovingly stern with her children and impatient of the open-handed generosity of her comparatively easygoing husband. In spite of their religion, neither she nor any of the other women wore the Moslem veil. Indeed, wherever Islam conflict-

ed with tribal custom it was Islam, not tribal custom, that made the adjustment. And Islam seemed all the healthier for bowing to the fierce independence of the dignified Malinké women. Islam had also to make room for tribal spirits and the little black snake that was the guiding spirit of Laye's father. Laye's mother had the gift of seeing into the future and had an immunity that made it possible for her to wash in the crocodile-infested Niger without fear.

FROM this background, which he recalls with tender warmth, Laye went first to the local school, then, because he was a bright boy, he won a scholarship that took him on the long journey down to Conakry on the coast. This was the most decisive trip of his life. It was not only a journey in distance but also a journey in time; for it cut the umbilical cord that held him to the tribal past, and he at once took on some of the loneliness that is the price modern man pays for his individualism. The journey to France, which comes at the end, was now inevitable. And though he wept when he left his family to go to France, he had reached the point of individualist self-consciousness where he could think of his mother thus:

"Yes, she must have guessed that this was a matter where there were wheels within wheels. . . . All the time she had been talking and fighting against them she must have been watching the wheels go round and round . . . . And how could they be stopped? . . . My destiny was to go away from home."

One of the weaknesses of this good and very interesting autobiography is that the author fails to make people come alive on his pages. One feels that they are alive because he says so and because he so obviously

evocation of his childhood and youth by a lonely young exile homesick for family, friends and the familiar world of French Guinea.

loves them, but they are themselves never sufficiently clear for one to get involved personally in their problems. His mother deserves to be a great tragic figure. Yet there is dignity here, and a clean sincerity that is heart-warming.



Camara Laye.

## Books of The Times

By ORVILLE PRESCOTT

ONE of the rewards of reading many books is the dramatic suddenness with which illuminating contrasts come to mind. Particularly striking are two current autobiographies by dark-skinned Africans who eagerly gulped down the white man's culture and wrote their books in the white man's language while living in exile in the white man's country. The



Camara Laye

two young Africans may even have written their manuscripts at the same time, one in London and one in Paris. And two more completely different books could not be imagined. Peter Abrahams' "Tell Freedom: Memories of Africa" is a furiously angry story of childhood and youth embittered by the humiliating racial segregation policies of South Africa. Camara Laye's "The Dark Child: The Autobiography of an African Boy" is a nostalgic

evocation of his childhood and youth by a lonely young exile homesick for family, friends and the familiar world of French Guinea.

scribe the life he knew to those unfamiliar with it. With poetic feeling, with deep affection for his parents and friends, with astonishing literary skill, Mr. Laye has recalled episodes and incidents which were significant milestones in his growing up. The result is a book in which many circumstances are taken for granted and much is left unexplained, but which offers an intimate and sometimes touching picture of one kind of African life. And it is, on the whole, a happy book. No fear or hate inspired by color prejudices darken these sunny pages.

Father and Adepts in Magic

Camara Laye was born and grew up in the city of Kouroussa on the banks of the Niger River near its headwaters in Upper French Guinea. His father was a prominent citizen, a blacksmith and goldsmith, an "extremely temperate man." Kind, just and benign, he excelled

"THE DARK CHILD: The Autobiography of an African Boy. By Camara Laye. Introduction by Philippe Thoby-Marcellin. Translated by James Kirkup, Ernest Jones, Elaine Gottlieb. 188 pages. Noonday Press. \$2.75.

in incantations to the genies of fire and wind and kept numerous powerful magic potions in pots—"mysterious liquids that keep the evil spirits at bay, and, if smeared on the body, make it invulnerable to every kind of black magic." A small blacksnake was Father's guiding spirit. In dreams it kept him informed of future events.

Mother, the first of Father's two wives, was "very kind, very correct." insistent on proper

### Tom-Tom

I WAS growing up. The time had come for me to join the society of the uninitiated, which comprised all the young boys of 12, 13 and 14 years of age. I joined it one evening before the Feast of Ramadan. As soon as the sun had gone down, the tom-tom had begun to beat. Even though it was being played in a remote part of the concession, its notes had roused me at once. I had struck my breast, had struck right at my heart, just as if Kodoko, our best player, had been playing for me alone.

—"The Dark Child."

in honor of a great man such as his father, dances of sheer exuberance, dances for important occasions, the "coba," which is danced by those who are about to be circumcised, and the "fady fady," which is danced by those who have recently been circumcised.

All of these recollections are word pictures of a people who may be simple and primitive in some respects, but who are proud, dignified, loyal and affectionate. Mr. Laye has mastered as much Western knowledge as the average well-educated Westerner; but his enthusiastically acquired learning seems only to have increased his respect and affection for the ancient ways of his people. But if he had told us something of the impact of his Western education upon his thought and emotion, something about his experience traveling from the Malinké world of Kouroussa on the Niger to the modern world of Paris on the Seine, he would have given his charming little book a psychologically interesting element which it now lacks.

treatment," caning by teachers and beatings by older boys; the rice harvest in the country; "the ceremony of the lions" in which young boys are frightened as a test of courage; the elaborate ceremonies of circumcision, which celebrate a "second, real birth" and the attainment of a man's estate; life in an advanced technical school at Conakry.

### He Knew Fun and Friendship

The life Mr. Laye recalls was filled with food and fun and friendship, with songs and laughter and with incessant dancing. There were dances

etiquette. Mother had supernatural powers and could perform small miracles, being a white witch. The family lived in mud-walled, thatched-roofed huts and were Malinkés, an ancient people, nominally Moslems but in practice primitive animists. Mother's relatives were mostly farmers. Several of Father's were educated in French ways and worked as clerks or skilled craftsmen in Conakry on the Atlantic coast.

"The Dark Child" is divided into chapters devoted to isolated episodes: a scene of Father working at his forge; incidents in the French school where Mr. Laye was a brilliant student but where he suffered from "excessively harsh



# Book Review

By J. SAUNDERS REDDING

## DELINQUENCY IN OUR DEMOCRACY

by Richard E. Harris. Wetzol Publishers, 524 S. Spring St., Los Angeles.

Though this book by Richard E. Harris is on a subject that recently has been somewhat overdone, the fact should deter no readers—and especially should it not deter readers who are the parents of juveniles, no matter what their social or economic status, for the author makes it clear the fact that the inducements to delinquency are no respecters of either wealth or social standing.

In some ways *Delinquency in our Democracy* is a frightening book—but this fact, too, should deter no readers.



Mr. Redding

It is frightening in the sense that it makes known to us those faults—selfishness, snobishness—which, sometimes overlooked in the individual, cumulated, add up to a mound of sin mountain high.

— o o o —

**SELF-INTEREST** is the word, and when the word becomes flesh it produces a man (or a woman) who cannot afford reform because the reformer's label closes the door to that job he has labored twenty-five years to prepare for.

When the word becomes flesh—and it too often does—it is the mind and body of that neighbor whose children are better than one's own, or that neighbor who is in line for the handout of some cheap politician, or that neighbor who says "all is well with me and mine, and as for the others, I don't give a dime."

What Mr. Harris does in this very readable book is show how these attitudes operate in seven cities.

— o o o —

**THE CITIES** are Los Angeles, San Antonio, Gary, Cleveland, Memphis, New York and Chester.

It is a thoughtful selection, dictated by a knowledge of the requirements of sociology.

In the hands of the academic sociologist, Harris' material might have turned into bare and dull statistics.

But the author is a newspaperman, and he knows where news values are, and he knows how to write a story.

The result is that his statistics come alive in incident, character, episode—not for the sake, however, of entertaining the reader, but because Mr. Harris wishes to galvanize the reader into action.

— o o o —

**THIS BOY** who took to dope at the age of twelve might, except for the grace of

God, be your boy. This girl who, in spite of coming from a "Good" family, turned to prostitution, might be your daughter. There is this constant note of personal warning in *Delinquency in our Democracy*.

But there is also a note of impersonal warning, struck for all those who are concerned with the future of democracy.

Do only the children of minority groups have no pride in "the past, no confidence in the present and no hope in the future?"

The answer is a resounding "No." This is the warning. This is the threat to democracy's future.

Mr. Harris does not say how this threat is to be countered in all of its aspects. Indeed, he runs off here into generalizations.

But if we understand that he means by "grass-roots leadership" the intimate involvement of all of us in those agencies that help mold the young people of America—home, church and school—then it becomes clear that the impersonal warning is not so impersonal after all.





# Book Review

By SAUNDERS REDDING

*A few - American*  
The Development of Negro Religion, by Ruby F. Johnston, Philosophical Library, 15 E. 40th st., New York, 202 pp. \$3.00.

The Spell of the Temple, by Allen Boyer McDaniel, Vantage Press, 120 W. 31st st., New York, 96 pp. \$2.50.

When I saw the title of Miss Johnston's book, *The Development of Negro Religion*, I surmised two things: first, that Miss Johnston was a couple of decades late; and, second, that the book was written and published to satisfy requirements for a graduate degree.

P. 2

This reviewer's experience with books under the second category has been most unhappy, and this, added to the first category, amounted to two strikes against *The Development of Negro Religion*. Then Miss Johnston hit, as it were, a

Mr. Redding

home run. Carter Woodson once wrote a book called *The Negro Church* and then some time later Benjamin Mays wrote *The Negro's God* and followed that (with J. W. Nicholson) with one called *The Negro Church*.

The three together seemed to be another enough. But now that I have *The Development of the Negro Religion*, I know they were not enough.

Dr. Woodson's book was written in acid only slightly diluted with ink, and Mays' two books leaned heavily, as they had to, on what might be called 'folk artifacts' (a redundancy, I'm afraid).

However, Miss Johnston's work is a study of the religious expressions of colored people in relation to the American culture. This necessarily involves a consideration of human motivations and the experiences which create them.

It seems to me that the chapters in which Miss Johnston treats of these matters, particularly and principally the first four chapters of part two, are her best.

It is in them that she makes an original contribution to our knowledge of a subject

that can never be exhausted—the emotional matrix out of which are born the religious experiences and expressions of colored people.

Whether this matrix is 'different,' Miss Johnston does not say; but it seems to me that she leaves herself a sufficient margin in which to explore this fascinating subject, and I hope that eventually she will explore it.

Quite different treatment of a religious subject is McDaniel's *The Spell of the Temple*. Ostensibly no more nor less than the record of the building of a temple on the shores of

Lake Michigan, it nevertheless catches and conveys the spirit of the Bahai Movement.

I have said it is a "record," but I use the term only in the sense of factuality. Actually, *The Spell of the Temple* is a narrative, an absorbing story full of human interest, infused with human faith.

There is also something more—the inexplicable power of so-called "spiritual truth and enlightenment" over the thoughts and actions of men.

Until one reads *The Spell of the Temple*, the structure itself, with its nine gardens and nine pools, is just another tribute of man to God, but after one reads McDaniel's book, the Temple becomes a symbol of man's aspiration towards God.





# BOOK REVIEWS by GERTRUDE MARTIN

"The Development of Negro Religion," by Ruby F. Johnston, offers an interesting look at changing religious beliefs and practices among Negroes. It traces briefly the history of the Negro in this country and the development of his religion as determined by his social background.

The author has visited churches in Massachusetts and South Carolina and has interviewed a total of 244 persons in the two places. This number does not seem to justify her generalizations about churches and religion. This is especially true when one considers the breakdown of the total number into categories. For instance, the author writes, "There were interviews with five members of two urban S. Carolina churches in order to give some consideration to religious attitudes of residents of urban southern communities."

The trend in Negro religion is away from emotionalism and greater emphasis is being placed on social services. In rural areas there is still a greater degree of emotionalism than in the North or in urban centers of the South. To some extent there is a correlation between income and emotionalism; those with lower incomes are drawn to churches where emotional expression is acceptable.

Within its limitations "The Development of Negro Religion" is informative and interesting. Miss Johnston's conclusions seem logical although as stated above many of her generalizations are not justified on the basis of her research. Her style of writing is wordy and often involved. It would appear from the notes that she has covered some of the same ground in an earlier book, "The Religion

of Negro Protestants," to which she refers frequently.

"The Development of Negro Religion," by Ruby F. Johnston; The Philosophical Library; 15 East 40th Street; New York 16, N. Y.; \$3.00.

## "RACE RELATIONS AND THE NEGRO PRESS"

It is a little late to mention this excellent article by P. L. Prattis which appeared in Phylon for the fourth quarter 1953. However; it is worthy of attention because it examines the traditional role of the Negro Press and suggests possibilities for its future. Mr. Prattis first discusses the place of the Negro in American life in 1934, then lists some of the changes which have come in the ensuing 19 years.

In conclusion he states that there is still a place for the Negro press, a place which the picture magazines do not fill. In the next twenty years, if present progress continues, he believes the "way out for the Negro publisher is in the direction of a new and better kind of newspaper which will take advantage of the growth of democracy in the United States and present a news and feature coverage based, not on race or color, but on the interests of its readers."

way to constructive peace.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEGRO RELIGION by Ruby F. Johnston. 197 pp. Philosophical Library. \$3.00. A narrative opening with the slave trade continues through the Civil War and emancipation into the present struggle within "Harlems."

tropical diseases. P. 25c  
THE BOOK THAT IS ALIVE: Studies in Old Testament Life and Thought as Set forth by the Hebrew Sages, by John Paterson (Scribners, \$3.50).

THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEGRO RELIGION, by Ruby F. Johnston (Philosophical Library, \$3).



# THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEGRO RELIGION



MRS. RUBY F. JOHNSTON

## Book published *afro-american* by sociologist

NEW YORK — Announcement of the publication of a book entitled "The Development of Negro Religion" by Mrs. Ruby F. Johnston has been made by the Philosophical Library Inc. This book has just been released to the public.

This publication presents an analysis of past and present religious practices in terms of the American culture. It describes the changes which are occurring in religion, and relates religious actions with economic and social conditions.

It also portrays the goals of colored people as expressed through the Christian religion. In short, the book is said to show what men believe, what they experience, and what they expect from religion.



Dr. Daniel Hale Williams' Story Told

# Heart Surgeon's Life in New Book

BOSTON, Mass.—Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, first surgeon to operate successfully on the human heart—and the founder of America's first interracial healing and training center, Chicago's Provident Hospital—is the subject of a biography published by Atlantic-Little, Brown & Company, called *Doctor Dan: Pioneer in American Surgery*, by Helen Buckler.

"Doctor Dan" was born in 1856 and grew up in Pennsylvania, Illinois and Wisconsin. He was descended from an old German family which had settled in Pennsylvania long before the Revolution and whose members had intermarried with Indian, Scotch, Irish, Negro and Welsh families.

As a youth in Chicago he worked as a barber, studying and educating himself at night. After working for a time as a doctor's apprentice, he was graduated from the Chicago Medical School, and immediately began to attract attention as Chicago's most promising surgeon.

IN 1894, President Cleveland appointed Doctor Dan head of Freedmen's Hospital in Washington, D. C. There, and then later on back in Chicago, his operations, his administrative skill, and his dedication to the cause of medicine brought him national and international fame.

In his later years, however, Doctor Dan was fanned out of the field he had so brilliantly pioneered. Jealousy and ambition on the part of some of his associates worked against him, and discredited his reputation. This biography, as well as telling the deeply moving story of his struggles and success, also sets the record straight.

The author of "Doctor Dan: Pioneer In American Surgery" is Helen Buckler, a well known magazine writer who spent ten years in research for this heavily documented biography.

Grants from a large national magazine and from Quaker organizations gave her time to fin-

ish her exacting job of documentation and writing.

TO GET HER material she traveled through fourteen states, interviewed over 250 people, talked to doctors and nurses who had worked with Doctor Dan and to patients whose lives he had saved.

## Books—Authors

*James P. 19c*  
The famous Negro surgeon, Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, the first to operate successfully on the human heart, is the subject of a biography by Helen Buckler, entitled *Doctor Dan: Pioneer in American Surgery*. The author, who spent ten years on the research, tells how Dr. Williams rose in his profession to become the first vice president of the National Medical Association. She also throws new light on Booker T. Washington.

## Author of Famous Work



*Angie P. 7 St. Louis, Mo.*  
HELEN BUCKLER, author of "Doctor Dan," the story of one of the most famous of Negro surgeons. Published recently by Little, Brown & Co., the biography of Dr. Daniel Hale Williams of Chicago, the first surgeon to operate successfully on the human heart, is the story of the struggle of a Negro professional to make his way in American life.—(Photo: Paul Parker for ANP).



26b 1954

## Stories of South Africa

### THE DREAM AND THE DESERT.

By Uys Krige. Houghton Mifflin. \$3.

The element of race conflict is necessarily strong in South African fiction since it is exposed in South African life. The emphasis on it, however, entails a certain limitation even in the work of successful artists. Human existence, after all, is more complicated than race and more universal than *apartheid*.

Uys Krige, in a slender volume of short stories, deals with individual rather than national problems, though South Africa with its ever-threatening weight of racism is present in his landscapes and cities. The stories range widely—from a charming fairy tale to memorable recreations of desert warfare. One of the most effective, *Death of a Zulu*, is not so much a story as "a moment" caught in quiet and economical narrative. The Zulu warrior is dying from the alien shrapnel of a white man's war; his death is a tableau out of time containing the entire tragedy of Africa. In *Two Daumiers*, Krige's success in blending social and individual conflict is also demonstrated. His Africans are men rather than simple victims of transplantation to city slums. His indictment of racism is all the more moving because it never grows shrill.

While the sentiment may occasionally seem too fragile and the structure too deliberate, "The Dream and the Desert" is the work of a sensitive South African writer who draws universal meaning from his material.

## THE DREAM AND THE DESERT



## Struggle For Civil Liberties Is Told In Book On Education

NEW YORK—The first full-length eyewitness account of the continuous fight for civil liberties in the United States during the past three decades will be published on May 15 when Horizon Press, New York, will issue "The Education of an American Liberal" (\$3.95) by Lucille B. Milner, former secretary of the American Civil Liberties Union.

In this autobiography, Mrs. Milner, who was active in the key cases which made civil liberties history in our time, tells the inside story of the major crusades for freedom and gives vivid descriptions of the people who fought for and against the Bill of Rights.

The book is both the personal story of a modern woman who found satisfaction and a career in liberal causes, and a history of liberal America since World War I. "The Education of an American Liberal" is the first consecutive account of the principles and policies which American liberals have followed in defending the Bill of Rights and contains hitherto unpublished material about this crucial area of national life.

Daughter of a Confederate soldier, Mrs. Milner led a sheltered and comfortable life in the South until the shock of personal crisis aroused her, as a young woman, to the tragedies of others.

She was graduated from Columbia University's New York School of Social Work, was active in the Missouri state legislature as a lobbyist for child welfare bills and studied the labor movement as a factory worker in New York.

Her autobiography tells how, shortly after the first World War, she became one of the founders of the American Civil Liberties Union. She consented to act as the Union's secretary for a short time and remained for a quarter of a century to participate in civil liberties conflicts during the administrations of Presidents Wilson, Harding, Hoover, Coolidge, Roosevelt and Truman.

Though this was her central activity, she served the cause of liberalism in other ways, too. One of the most dramatic chapters of the book describes how she went into Nazi Germany on behalf of a liberal group in the United States.

"The Education of an American Liberal" opens with a preface by

Dr. Alvin Johnson, President Emeritus of the New School of Social Research, who says: "No American can read Mrs. Milner's book without being a better American when he has finished it."

The book has been hailed by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, former U. S. Attorney General Francis Biddle, Professors Irwin Edman and Horace M. Bowen, Pearl Buck, Rabbi Abba Hanel Silver and others as an exciting story and a stirring reaffirmation of the basic principles of freedom imperiled in the modern world.



In Talk At Tuskegee:**Widely Acclaimed Author  
Calls For Self Reliance**

**TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Feb. 22.**—Ralph Ellison, author of "Invisible Man," widely acclaimed novel that won the 1952 National Award, told a chapel-packed audience at Tuskegee Institute Sunday evening that, in order to achieve, they had to be proud of and sold on what they are doing. He said, "In this modern day world, we have to overcome the wide-spread misrepresentations of the writers of the early 1920's who wanted to be anything but Negroes and so sought to avoid the things most basic to our culture."

Ellison said that basically there is only one human experience and that is the onward movement toward higher and better. "With all peoples," he stated, "abiding experiences constitute the basis of their culture." He said that when we want to understand what we are, we turn to art and literature and not the other disciplines. He pointed out that it has been out of our trials and not the other disciplines. He pointed out that it has been out of our trials that our folksongs — the blues and the spirituals — that our folklore and our culture developed.

He reminded the young people in his audience that in the slave South we were the technicians and the master craftsmen. He said that the feeling persists among many of us that we have always been living in the background, when, in reality, we have been in the midst of all that has happened since we arrived in this country.

Called back to Tuskegee Institute where he was a student from 1933 through 1936, in the School of Music, Ellison was guest speaker on the entertainment course series. In order to emphasize his subject, "Literature and the Crisis of Negro Sensibility," it was necessary for the speaker to fill in the background of the Negro in America and to point up his problems and achievements.

He noted that after reconstruction our horizons were retracted. Political aspirations and achievements, employment status and ed-

ucational opportunities were thrown back to their lowest state. There was talk of "Negro jobs" and the "Negro's place." We have had to break that yoke.

Ellison said, "we stand now at the crisis. There is no such thing as not being ready. The United States is trying to appeal to the human sensibilities of the rest of the world which is for the most part colored. It cannot be done with a large segment of its population ignorant and bearing the stigma of second-class citizenship."

He said that for the first time we are able to define what we want to do and to be. He urged the young people that there is a world to be won. He reminded them that there are no longer "Negro jobs" and that there are no barriers that cannot be overcome by hard work and preparation. He said that in our fight for civil rights we each have to do our best in the area of our calling.

#### **TUSKEGEE'S PRIZE WINNING AUTHOR ADDRESSES ASSEMBLY**

Ralph Ellison, author of the Invisible Man, which won the 1952 National Book Award, and a Tuskegee Institute student from 1933 to 1936, addressed an assembly program audience here recently on "The Role of the Negro Teachers in Preparing for a Non-Segregated Way of Life in the United States."

Ellison left shortly afterwards for New York and eventually Salzburg, Austria, where he will conduct a six-week lecture series on American Literature. Mrs. Ellison will accompany him on the trip.

A number of summer activities denominate this week's ROUNDUP.



## EPITAPH OF A SMALL WINNER (1952)

DOM CASMURRO (1953)

PHILOSOPHER OR DOG? (1954)

By- JOAQUIM MARIA MACHADO de ASSIS (1839-1908)

## The Potato Game

Physically speaking, Joaquim Maria Machado de Assis (1839-1908) was something of an eyesore among the world's great novelists. An epileptic mulatto, nearsighted and ugly, he wore a beard to conceal his features. As if his personal handicaps were not enough, he was a Brazilian who wrote in Portuguese—and neither his nation nor his language has thus far meant too much in popular world literature. Not one of his novels appeared in English till 1952, when "Epitaph of a Small Winner" was published, and acclaimed.

Now that his other two major works are available in English—"Dom Casmurro" in 1953 and "Philosopher or Dog?" published this week—it is clear that Machado is a novelist whom the literary critics have to reckon with—a writer who combines the bite of Voltaire with the psychological subtlety of Henry James. Like both of those worthies, he is not so strong on plot. In Machado's novels, it is the perceptions that count—or, more exactly, the misperceptions. Like a spoiled philosopher, he makes in his novels a brilliant contrast between things as they seem and things as they are.

The plot outline of "Philosopher or Dog?" is skeletal, if original. Rubião, a schoolteacher, unexpectedly inherits a fortune and leaves his home town for Rio de Janeiro, where he gestures ineffectively at the world of love and the world of politics, but never catches anyone's eye. Finally he goes off into a private world of his own, identifies himself with Napoleon III and dies insane, convinced he has won the Franco-Prussian War.

**A Slick Dandy:** Until his final downfall, poor Rubião moves through Machado's rough, brutal world with the eager innocence of Harpo Marx biting into a poisoned custard pie. He addresses a clumsy but sincere love speech to Sophia, his partner's flirtatious wife. She rejects him and tells her husband, a slick dandy, Carlos Maria, addresses a pretty but insincere love speech to Sophia. She says "Oh!" to Carlos and nothing to her husband. Rubião confronts Sophia with a sealed letter she has addressed to Carlos and accuses her of being Carlos' mistress. She is alarmed, and he leaves, convinced of her guilt.

However, the letter is only a routine circular, and Sophia is innocent. However—"however" is the only possible connective in most of Machado's situations—she wishes with all her heart and soul that the accusation were true.

Each of Machado's characters follows ruthlessly a demonic, distorted conception of himself. Sophia sees herself as a *femme fatale*. If she organizes charity for



Machado's death mask

victims of an epidemic, she does it for prestige. Teofilo, a routine political hack, absurdly exaggerates the nobility of his calling. If he encourages a search for the missing Rubião, he does it because he likes to correspond with his superiors. If Carlos marries a nice girl, he does it because she worships him and he rather enjoys it. Rubião's madness differs from their sanity only in degree.

The novel originally bore the name of Quincas Borba, the mad philosopher who bequeaths his fortune and his dog (also named Quincas Borba) to Rubião. The philosopher disappears early in the novel, but his dog and his philosophy remain. The most relevant doctrine in Borba's—and Machado's—philosophy of "Humanitism" is the belief that strife and selfishness are natural and necessary. Obviously, this is the doctrine by which

Machado's characters live.

**'Peace... Is Destruction':** Early in the book he cites a parable of Borba's: "Suppose the existence of a potato field and two famished tribes. There are not enough potatoes to feed both tribes; so one of them gathers its forces to cross the mountain to the other slope where potatoes are abundant. If the two tribes were to divide the field of potatoes peacefully, there would not be enough for sufficient nourishment, and they would die from starvation. Peace, in that case, is destruction; war is preservation."

Rubião coins a personal motto from the parable: "To the victor, the potatoes." In Machado's potato race, though, everyone gets some but poor Rubião. He just gets mashed in the stampede.

► **Summing Up:** Witty, tragic, masterful. (PHILOSOPHER OR DOG? By Machado de Assis. Translated by Clotilde Wilson. 271 pages. Noonday Press. \$3.50.)



# EROTICISM IN THE NOVELS OF FELIPE TRIGO



DR. ALMA WATKINS  
(Book Off Press)

Dr. Alma T. Watkins, professor and head of the department of modern foreign languages at Tennessee State University, Nashville, has received advance copies of her book "Eroticism in the Novels of Felipe Trigo."

A Spanish text, the book deals with the impact of modern culture on the mind and heart of Spain as revealed in a penetrating study of Felipe Trigo, one of the most controversial figures in Spanish letters.

Dr. Watkins currently is reviewing "Ratons" (a book on race relations in South Africa) by Daphne Rooke for The Pylon, Atlanta University's Quarterly Review of Race and Culture.



## New job equality booklet available

### WASHINGTON

An interesting booklet entitled "Equal Job Opportunity Is Good Business" has just been issued by President Eisenhower's Committee on Government Contracts.

In this booklet the committee headed by vice-president Richard Nixon, explains why and how it is working to end racial and religious discrimination in employment by those businesses contracting with the federal government.

The brochure also tells how business and the nation profit from non-discriminatory employment policies, and eight steps taken by firms which have successfully put such policies into effect.

Feeling that this subject is of widespread interest to business men throughout the United States, the committee has sent a copy of the booklet to every national trade association.

Additional copies may be obtained from the President's Committee on Government Contracts, Washington 25, D. C.



## Factor in Job Restriction

HAVING conducted an extensive study of Negro employment in the South, the National Urban League concludes that while the economic status of Negro workers in the area has improved markedly in the past fifteen years, the vast majority of them are restricted still to poorly paying, unskilled jobs, thus forcing a disproportionate number of family members to work.

One unmentioned factor in this situation is the lamentable lack of training in industrial skills which not only hampers upgrading but assures that the majority will continue in the category of last hired and first fired.

Job discrimination is certainly an important factor in an unemployment situation which nets Negroes an average wage 54 per cent of the rate of white workers, but lack of training is a factor, too.

Some of this training for more skilled jobs is being offered by big corporations faced with a shortage of capable workers, but it does not begin to make inroads on the vast majority of the unskilled.

One reason is that the mechanical schools and colleges in the South have not done the job they are established to do as well as they should, while in no part of the country have individual Negroes in sufficient numbers availed themselves of opportunities to enroll in privately operated trade schools.

We cannot expect any significant change in the Negro job pattern until our workers recognize the necessity of preparing themselves for upgrading.

Regardless of what the law, employers and labor unions may do to eliminate employment and promotional barriers based on race and color, there can be no significant progress until our working population is better trained for the jobs which it aspires to hold.

This factor cannot and must not be ignored, because no force on earth can win advancement for workers who are not disposed to improve themselves.

A national campaign based on this necessity is long overdue.



# Book Review

**EYEWITNESS IN INDO-CHINA**, by Joseph R. Starobin. Cameron and Kahn, Publishers; 107 Greenwich Ave., New York. 187 pp. \$1. *After American*



Eyewitness in Indo-China came too late to have any influence upon American policy in Indo-China during the war there. Indeed, it is doubtful that it would have influenced our policy even had it come, say, early last spring.

It is not the kind of book American policy-makers would have taken kindly to. It deplores America's efforts "to change the realities" in the world. It sharply criticizes Secretary Dulles for "playing with fire" in Indo-China.

But, as has been said, the book came too late, and Mr. Starobin's efforts to "whip the French government into line (did) bring the day closer when a new (French) majority left Mr. Dulles high and dry."

*WERE (AND ARE) the Viet-Namense a threat to our country? The author thinks not. Were (and are) the Viet-Namense "national patriots in Indo-China" who, independent of Peking coaching and commitments, wanted only to be free of foreign rule? The author thinks so.*

*Will (and can) a free Indo-China remain free to resist pressures from and alliance with Peking as strongly as she resisted French rule and American threats? The author thinks, definitely yes.*

*Was (and is) America's interest in the East, and particularly in Indo-China, purely selfish interest? The author thinks so.*

came too late to alert the American people and to bring about a change that would have "saved American face in Asia," Mr. Starobin is not thereby discouraged from issuing other warnings for the future.

He thinks we are overestimating our "ability to provoke or frighten the Soviet Union and China." He believes that our western European policy, encouraging the rise of a new German Army, is built on quicksand.

He believes that our policy in regards to Red China—the policy of pretending that she does not exist as a political entity—"will succeed in unsettling" all of Asia and in provoking a new world war.

**HE BELIEVES**, in other words, that while America professes peace, she is hell-bent for aggression. These beliefs are all in the Com-

unist line.

And this is not surprising, for Mr. Joseph R. Starobin is an American Marxist, and his book gives a Marxist view of reality.

Formerly a foreign editor of the Daily Worker, the author went to the Soviet Union in 1952, and from there to China, where he spent a year; and from China to Indo-China.

**WHAT HE WAS** conditioned to see there, he saw; and what he was conditioned to think about what he saw, he thought.

The spirit of what he thought is summed up in his statement: "Mr. Dulles is inviting trouble. He is crying 'aggression' in advance—and all this in the face of a situation so favorable to negotiation, and so favorable to the restoration of peace, not only for Asia but for the world!"



26b 1954

# Novel of Negro Society

"False Measure," by Charles A. Smythwick Jr. (William Frederick Press, New York. \$3.50) tells us on the jacket that it is a satirical novel of the lives and objectives of upper, middle class Negroes. *Cover P. 12*

Mr. Smythwick has not, in my opinion, written a satire at all, but a straight and very in

teresting piece of reporting. It is true that his cast of characters think a great deal about appearances and pleasure; and that they are Negroes mainly by accident or courtesy; and that they have little in common with the majority of working class Negroes. But then, if you put any class under the microscope you find that class interests are greater than those of so-called racial interests. *54*

There is, in fact, no such thing as race, but there is class. That this class in the novel was "lighter" than the majority of people who are called Negroes, is an accident of Western history, where color and class became identifiable. In Japan, the ruling classes were darker than the Untouchables there who were the paler Ainos. So it goes in human affairs.

The upper class American Negro is almost identical with the upper class white; more money in the hands of the latter being about the only difference. Both are far distant in appearance and objectives from the average white and black sharecropper or domestic. However, since color prejudice here lumped all Negroes together, Negroes of the elite have had more problems to solve; that they have solved them as well as they have is remarkable.

This novel is honest enough to show that the upper class is decent, honorable and interesting. Joan Turner, the heroine, is worth reading about. — JOSEPHINE SCHUYLER, New York.

FALSE MEASURE



26b 1954

FAMOUS AMERICAN NEGROES

DOCTOR AT THE ROSA PARK, by  
Elizabeth M. Mead,  
FAMOUS AMERICAN NEGROES, by  
Langston Hughes (Dodd, Mead,  
\$2.75). Biographical sketches  
for young readers.

26b 1954

TO DISCUSS JAZZ  
NEW YORK (AMP) Lang-  
ston Hughes, author and poet  
will discuss his "First Book of  
Jazz" at the New York Public  
Library's Washington Heights  
branch, Wednesday, Nov. 10, at  
8 p.m. David Martin, pianist and  
composer, will illustrate Hughes'  
talk at the piano.

FIRST BOOK OF JAZZ





# Book Review

By SAUNDERS REDDING

*Wishful Thinking*, by Frances Lawrence Smith. Published by the author, Baltimore, Md., 46 pp. X

*Lay O' the Land*, by Mildred Bright Payton. Chatham Chapter, N.C. Farm Bureau, publisher. Unpaged. X

*The First Book of Rhythms*, by Langston Hughes. Franklin Watts, Inc., 699 Madison Avenue, New York. 63 pp. \$1.75.

These three publications have this in common: They are the works of poets—one, Langston Hughes, long since established, and the others making their first modest claims on the public attention.

Langston Hughes' little book is a simply conceived, simply written story of the rhythms of the universe.

It was written for children, but some of the simple truths in it are so generally ignored, or unknown, or forgotten that grown-ups—most of them—can read

*The First Book of Rhythms* with profit and study the graphic illustrations (by Robin King) will surprise that so fundamental a force as rhythm, operating in all living and moving things, can be so simply pictured.

Hughes writes of the rhythm of sound, of movement, of thought; in short, of the universe. He tells how music came into being thousands of years ago became aware of the movement of the heart and imitated it by clapping their hands.

He speaks of the rhythm of machines and the rhythms in science. Robin King illustrates the rhythms in designs—in furniture and cloth and buildings and pictures. There are the rhythms of the earth—of the seasons of struggle and ease, birth and death.

"Rhythm," Mr. Hughes concludes, "is something we share in common, you and I, with all the plants and animals and people in the world, and with the stars and moon and sun, and all the whole vast wonderful universe beyond this wonderful earth which is our home."

*Wishful Thinking* is a first, modestly issued volume—rather, sheaf—of poems. Frances Lawrence Smith knows what poetry is, though he does not always write it.

He seems to have a respect for the technical requirements of the poet's craft, and this is a good thing to find in any new poet.

If Mallarme was right, sometimes a poet with only a meagre store of talent but a technical competence can turn out quite acceptable verse.

There is a sparkle in some of the lines in *Wishful Thinking*, but it is, I'm afraid, the sparkle of rhinestones rather than diamonds.

*Lay O' the Land* is less competent but more satisfying, and it is more satisfying because it is more sincere. I suppose that sincerity is the only emotional capital the poet has.

Mildred Bright Payton has a great amount of it. For all its lack of sure technical skill, "Possession," the best poem in this little book, is warm and rich.

But Miss Payton is also a sentimentalist, and she must be careful of this, for sentimentality is a danger to the poet in the same way that rust is a danger to iron: it eats, it corrodes, it consumes.

Sentimentalism promotes the spending of emotional wealth on unworthy objects, on trifles, on banalities. No poet (and scarcely any person) can afford this.





# The Book, "Fleas Come With The Dog, Is In A Class To Itself

The Fleas Come With the Dog.  
By Ralph McGill, 127 pp.  
Abingdon Press, New York, \$2.00  
By WILLIAM GORDON

No other country within a span of 300 years, has grown with such speed as has our own United States. The cultures of the many races and nationalities have had no adverse effect on our unity as a nation. We have seen fit to combine our talents and ingenuity to build out of what was once a wilderness, one of the industrial and agricultural powers in the world today.

But this growth and development came not without difficulties. With this dynamic growth has come many problems varied and complex.

Ralph McGill, editor of the Atlanta Constitution and world traveler does an exceptional job pointing up the growth and problems in his recent book, "The Fleas Come With the Dog." He does it, not with statistics and graphs, but with people.

The Abingdon Press has done a fine job of bringing together a number of McGill columns and grouping them according to theme and interest. They deal with the Southland-Proud and Progressive; America, Vast and Free—; Opinions, Mild and Strong, and People, Big and Little.

Step by step, in true McGill style, one is given a true picture of America and the changes that affect her, both domestic and foreign. Both people and incidents emerge out of his own experiences. It is difficult to say just what part of the book rates above the other. Although, I especially liked Lonely Chimneys Speak from the Fields, If You was Ever a Raggedy Kid and The Story of Dr. Ralph Bunche. Other columns carry feelings of interest and expert writing.

To say that the author is, at his best here would be too general. Those who follow the McGill columns daily know that he possesses a rare ability to give an adequate and just interpretation of news and events as they occur. He does this with a technique seldom found

among journalists. Each column is a miniature dissertation well documented with facts. He has a touch that puts him in a class to himself. His book should be viewed in light of this rare technique.

The late President Roosevelt was

famous for his fireside chats, because each carried a message straight to the people. The McGill writings possess a similar quality. There is a feeling inherent in the quality of writing and it flows with variety and versatility.

The rank and file as well as the intellectual, read and understand his columns with a great deal of profound interest. McGill talks to people through his column like the late President Roosevelt did by radio. For those interested in their country and the people who have helped to build it I recommend "The Fleas Come with the Dog." Like the author, the book is in a class to itself.



**Another African Novel**

A first novel of merit is Johanna Moosdorf's "Flight to Africa" (Harcourt, Brace and Company, New York, \$3.50).

Africa was to have been an escape from the past for Suzanne Lebrun. It was so far away from her home and life in East Berlin . . . here she could make a new beginning. But it was not so. The past was so entangled with the present . . . and the sensual mysteries of this black continent sucked her in . . . that there was no future for her; she committed suicide with a native poison.

Her husband, Marcel, journeyed back to Germany to try to find the reason for her act. He thought perhaps she still loved a student, Richard Engelhardt. He went back to question the people they both had known. And Africa kept beckoning and so was Ngangala, a native girl who believed in dark things.

The characters for the most part are voluntarily wicked; Merchant especially so. It's a novel of horrors yet exciting.—GWENDOLYN WILLIAMS, Indianapolis, Indiana.



# Book Review

By SAUNDERS REDDING

**FOOLS OF THE EARTH**, by Kirkland W. Green, Ph.D.M. Exposition Press, 384 Fourth Ave., New York. 138 pp. \$3.50.

According to Mr. Kirkland W. Green, Dear of the College of Arts and Sciences at S.C.A. and M. College, people are divided into five classes, "the insane, the abnormal, the subnormal, the normal and the supernormal."

Excepting the normal, the people in all these classes are one or another variety of fool. Some of them are fools by nature, some by circumstance, and some by willfulness. It is to be expected that nature should create fools since, on the word of Dean Green, "in reality nothing is perfect in nature."



THOUGH THIS rather startling opinion is only incidentally expressed—a sort of *obiter dictum*—by the author, and though he does not seem to realize it, it (the opinion) is nevertheless the foundation of his thesis, on what this reader—who admits to being confused—takes to be his thesis. In effect, Dean Green says "accentuate the positive."

If this is his thesis, he disposes of it very quickly: "Only the positive is real. The negative is merely the nonpositive, or the opposite. In all creation there exists only the real, and that is good. All else is but the opposite and is relative, nonexistent per se."

THIS STATEMENT is a cloud of ambiguity—what is "the real?" what is "good?"—and as if himself to flee that cloud, the author rushes on to talk about fools.

In the first three pages he grossly catalogues these, and in the 85 pages immediately following he puts them through a finer screening, classifying them to the smallest wart and mole defects in all their sorry aspects, and giving them a dressing down the like of which only those given to clichés and trite platitudes and foggy generalizations are likely to applaud.

IN THE author's finer classification, fools include ("commercial fools") radio entertainers, stage comedians, comic strip artists; orthodoxists, extreme stylists, prostitutes ("Sex is the root of all romance between the sexes. Romance is the fragrance of the flower of love between the sexes. Love between the sexes is the breath of God breathed upon man and woman, drawing

them together to be fruitful and multiply. Hence, prostitutes are fooling themselves when they choose that as a means of livelihood"). victims of tragedy, homosexuals, negative extremists, power-seekers, the over-educated ("This (the overeducated) is the most pathetic group of all the fools of earth. This is a typical illustration of the fact that you can go wrong in the right direction by going too far.").

\* \* \*

GIVING ALL these their unhappy due in Part One, Dean Green devotes Part Two to "A Social Health Recipe." Here our social institutions get a dressing down: "Our jury system is obsolete and should be discarded. We have outgrown such a system but most of us don't know it," so Dean Green would eliminate the jury system of our courts and replace it with three highly trained judges holding at least LL.M. degrees."

He would also "Organize the political machine so that the popular vote would elect representatives to cast votes for a choice candidate after a review of the qualifications of all candidates had been analyzed in regards to training, character, history and philosophy."

In the fields of Academe he would eliminate the Ph.D. and the Ed.D., for they "are misnomers and generally do not represent anything in particular ... The doctor's degree belongs to the field of correction in body, mind, or character and implies competence in diagnosis, therapeutics, and prophylaxis."

DEAN GREEN ends his book with "some Personal Reflections" and "Meditations." Some of them:

"When one comes to believe himself wise and that his judgment should become the standards for all men, he has lost his sanity."

"The universe is from everlasting to everlasting, without beginning of days or ending of years, except in the realm of change, among the products of circumstances."

"All of human knowledge is limited to symbolism and relativity ..."

Maybe I'm just confused, and maybe if you read the book you'll see why.



26b 1954

## For Young

### Invincible Harriet

FREEDOM TRAIN: The Story of Harriet Tubman. By Dorothy Sterling. Illustrated by Ernest Crichlow. 191 pp. New York: Doubleday & Co. \$2.50.

For Ages 12 to 16.

"MOSES is coming!" That was the message whispered in cabins and fields whenever Harriet Tubman slipped over the Mason and Dixon Line to help some of her people to freedom. It was no wonder that the Negroes thought her a deliverer, for the pint-sized runaway slave with a price on her head risked her life again and again, enduring fearsome hardships, to bring more than 300 slaves to safety over the Underground Railroad. P. 22

The invincible Harriet is best remembered for her rescues, but her work did not stop there. During the Civil War she was a spy for the Union Army, nursed the sick and organized hospitals and helped the bewildered freedmen to build new lives—all without knowing how to read or write. Her courage and her selflessness were matched by a sturdy common sense and a wry humor, qualities which Dorothy Sterling emphasizes in this well-rounded portrait of a remarkable woman.

ELLEN LEWIS BUELL.

FREEDOM TRAIN: The Story of Harriet Tubman



## Wider Horizon For Minority Youth Seen In New Pamphlet

NEW YORK. — Wider horizons are opening up for minority youth but careful vocational guidance is essential to help them prepare for their opportunities.

Ann Tanneyhill, vocational director of the National Urban League, assays the picture of job placements for members of minority groups in "From School To Job," a recent pamphlet of the Public Affairs committee, New York City (25 cents).

"Stereotyped thinking about the ability of Negroes has worked the greatest havoc on youth," writes Miss Tanneyhill. "Negro young people were prevented from getting needed training for occupations because it was a known fact that jobs would be denied them."

Gradually however (chiefly since World War II) Negroes and members of other minority groups have found employment in areas previously closed to them. Fair employment practice legislation has passed, as well as the increased efforts of organizations willing to get into action to "make democracy work."

"The vicious circle that once held Negro youth in a vice-like grip has been broken," Miss Tanneyhill points out. "Hundreds of job opportunities are available for qualified applicants—and if the applicants happen to be Negroes, the jobs can be theirs."

Vocational guidance is an essential ingredient in job placement of minority youth, Miss Tanneyhill emphasizes. The frustrations of parents frequently deter children from aspiring to "better jobs"—and teachers and counselors must contribute the inspiration and assessment of job possibilities essential to apt placement.

Miss Tanneyhill cites a number of guidance programs that have produced effective results. She particularly stresses the lessons learned from the Florina Lasker Youth Opportunity project sponsored by the Urban League of Greater New York. In its industrial relations program to widen job opportunities, the Urban League ran head on into some of the frustrations and problems that disturbed Negro and Puerto Rican young people in adolescent years.

Aided by a special grant it developed a two-year program to help some of these boys achieve

their vocational aims. Information on trade union scholarships was given (many had not known they existed); several applied for, and won, Ford Foundation scholarships. Visits to colleges and industrial plants were arranged, and contacts made with outstanding members of their race who had surmounted race barriers.

Among the significant findings noted from this program of intensive counseling:

1. School personnel wanted more information on job opportunities for minority young people.
2. All the resources available for financial aid are not being tapped.
3. Time spent in the armed forces should be more effectively utilized as vocational training.
4. The dignity of "blue-collar" occupations should be raised.
5. New ways of approaching hard-to-reach parents must be devised.

Miss Tanneyhill closes with specific suggestions as to how communities can work out year-round programs for more effective youth guidance. Her pamphlet should prove helpful to all concerned with the maximum use of our total resources in a democratic society.



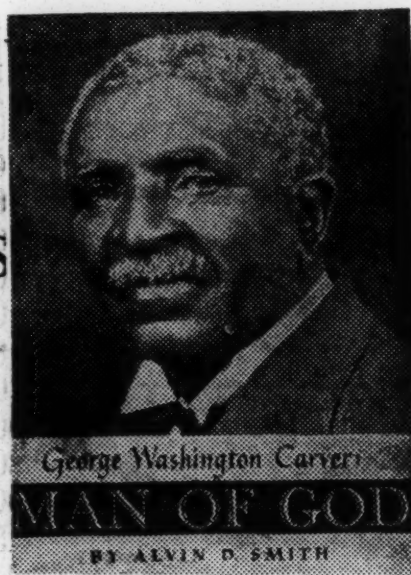
# REVIEW OF CARVER BOOK APPEARS IN EASTERN PAPERS

Chain Writer  
Recommends It  
Saying It Is  
Tribute To Carver

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Saunders Redding, the reviewer said that this book, written by one of Dr. Carver's former students, "thus one sees the so-called 'wizard of Tuskegee' from a new point of view."

Despite that much before has been written about Dr. Carver, this book has more than just a little to recommend it to anyone interested in



George Washington Carver, said the reviewer. He called it a tribute to Carver. This group of eastern newspapers have a circulation over 200,000.

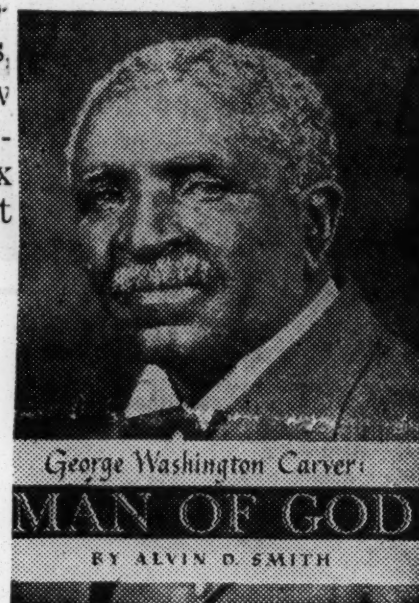
Order your copy—\$2.50—direct from the publisher, Exposition Press, 386 Fourth ave., New York 16, N. Y. or the Butler County American, Box 266, Hamilton, Ohio or at your bookstore.

ORDERS COPIES  
FOR 5TH AND  
7TH GRADES

AND LIBRARIES

"Geo. Washington  
Carver: Man  
Of God" Is  
Book's Title

The book, "George Washington Carver: Man of God" by Alvin D. Smith—editor of the Butler County American, will be taught to all children in the fifth and seventh



grades in Hamilton Public Schools, Ray M. Taylor, Asst. Supt. of Education said this week.

Mr. Taylor said we have ordered a large number of copies to not only supply the fifth and seventh grades but also for every

one of the school libraries.

Hamilton Public Schools long ago adopted a method of teaching youth love of country and facts about great Americans, both white and Negro said Mr. Taylor who has played a major part over the years of making Hamilton's system truly American—a leader in integration of not only its Negro pupils but also of its Negro teachers.

The book—published by the Exposition Press, Inc., 386 Fourth ave., New York—has a double benefit for Hamilton youth. Besides learning the key of Dr. Carver's happy and successful life, they will gain inspiration of knowing, Mr. Smith, its author is a citizen of their home town—Hamilton.



# Locker Presents Smith's Book To Liberia's President

*Proctor Connally*  
U.S. Ambassador to Liberia — Jesse D. Locker—wrote to the editor of the Butler County American and said that he had presented to President Tubman of Liberia, W. Africa, a copy of the book: "George Washington Carver: Man of God" by Alvin D. Smith and added, that he was "glad to give President Tubman" one of the copies he had ordered several weeks ago that had been autographed by the author.

*Chin*  
Coming To Ohio

Mr. Locker said that President Tubman had been invited to Akron, Ohio when he visits President Eisenhower at the White House, upon invitation, October 13, 14, 15. The Ambassador praised Liberia's President, saying he was a dynamic leader, a real citizen of the world, truly typifying leadership from Africa and he hopes the BCA editor will meet him in person.

*Ed. 9-18-54*  
Smith's Classmate  
Secretary Of War

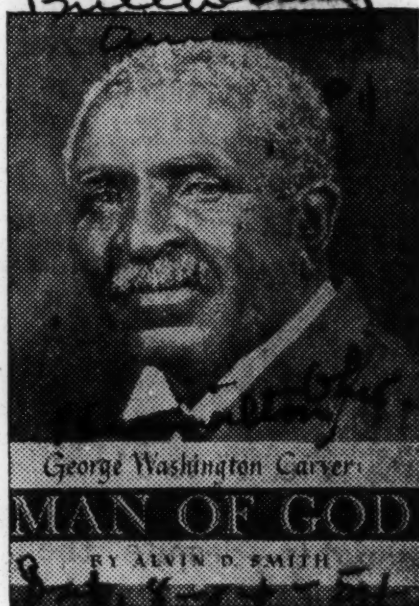
Ambassador wrote that he was happy to meet one of Liberia's top officials, a classmate of Alvin D. Smith—Honorable Ernest C. B. Jones, Liberia's Secretary of War. Smith and Jones are Tuskegee Institute, Ala. classmates. Both graduated and attended Dr. Carver's Bible School together at the famous school.

Smith's book on Dr. Carver which has attracted such wide attention is the only book published that gives Dr. Carver's Biblical teachings. It was written from notes

made by Smith while a student in Dr. Carver's volunteer Bible Class. It is published by the Exposition Press, 386 Fourth Ave., New York 16, N.Y. Price \$2.50.

## CARVER BOOK DRAWS COMM'N FROM FLORIDA AND CONN.

valuable copy has been provided a cherished place in her home library.



The book: "George Washington Carver: Man of God" written by Alvin D. Smith from notes he made while attending Dr. Carver's Bible Class continues to draw commendations from more and more people over the nation.

From St. Petersburg, Fla. Mrs. Mary Barrett writes the author that she was so happy to see the book featured in a big display by St. Petersburg's main library.

From Old Saybrook, Conn., Miss Helen Chisholm writes that her



# Carver Book Reveals How To Contact God

THE BOOK THE WORLD HAS  
BEEN WAITING FOR

N. Y. Publisher  
*Hamilton, Ohio -*  
Announces Carver  
*Feb. 3-6-54*  
Book Ready For  
*Butler County American*  
Nation, March 25

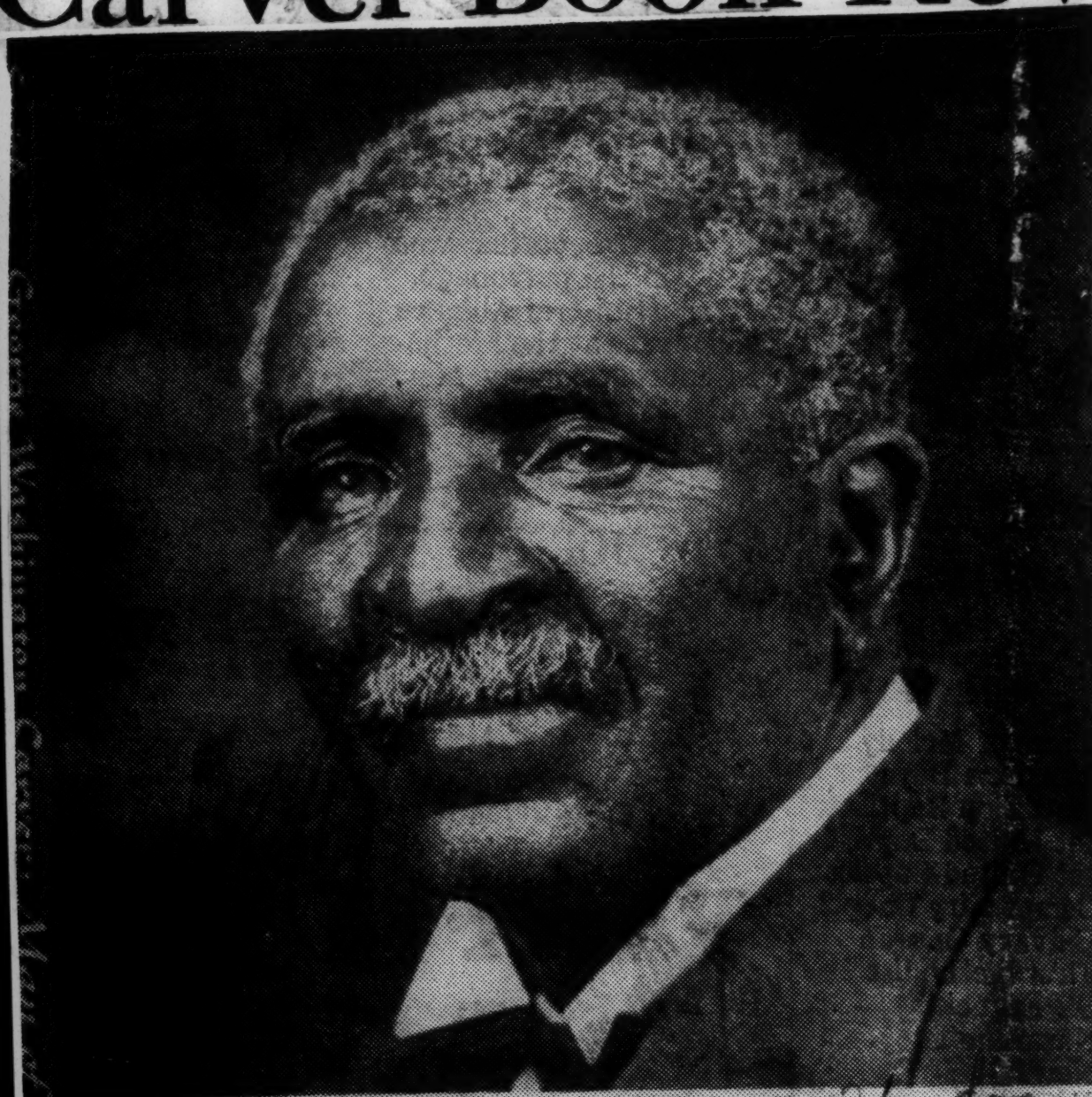
The Exposition Press, 386 Fourth ave., New York announced that the new book: GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER: MAN OF GOD by Alvin D. Smith is now ready and the official publication date is March 25 throughout the nation's bookstores.

The author, editor of the Butler County American wrote the book from notes he made while a student in Dr. Carver's Bible Class at Tuskegee Institute. It gives for the first time Dr. Carver's religious recipe, telling how to tune-in and contact God to get good out of life.

The publishers' announcement said, "It was a farsighted move on Mr. Smith's part to have made and preserved these notes and the world can now be grateful."

In addition to bookstores, persons may order from the publisher, the Exposition Press, Inc., 386 Fourth ave., New York 16, N. Y. Price \$2.50. Also they are available

at the Butler County American, 422 S. Front st., Hamilton, Ohio.



George Washington Carver

MAN OF GOD

BY ALVIN D. SMITH



SCHOOL WHERE  
DR. CARVER  
GREW FAMOUS  
INVITES AL SMITH

*Butler County  
American*  
To Give Book  
Publicity In Its  
*Hamilton Ohio*  
Publication To

Alumni, Friends

*Lat. 4-3-54*  
Dr. L. H. Foster, President of Tuskegee Institute, Ala., writes to Alvin D. Smith, author of the new book: "George Washington Carver: Man of God" that he is delighted with the book.

Dr. Foster said: "We at Tuskegee Institute are very proud to have one of our graduates write such a book on Dr. Carver."

*P. 1 266*  
Invites Author

Dr. Foster invited Smith, the author and BCA Editor to visit Tuskegee, his Alma Mater at an early date.

He said he had notified Mr. J. Henry Smith, Editor of the school's publication—that is sent out "to many of our alumni and friends throughout the nation—to give the book wide publicity.

The book which Exposition Press, 386 Fourth ave., New York is publisher, is displayed widely in the Tuskegee Institute book store.

# Copies of Smith's Smith, Author Of Book On Carver Carver Book Visits Ordered by FordClevel'd, Greeted

*Butler County American*  
Although it has been less than a month—March 25—since the publishers, the Exposition Press of New York released the new book, "George Washington Carver: Man of God" it has attracted a wider and wider reception beyond any expectations in so short space of time. *P. 1 Lat. 4-17-54*

Among the many commendations and orders, this week, was that of a Ford Motor Co. official of Dearborn, Mich. who wrote Smith, praising the book, saying copies had been ordered from the publishers to be placed in the library at the Ford Archives in Dearborn. These copies will be available to thousands of Ford employees, visitors who go there, where the history and works of the late Henry Ford are kept and available daily for the public. *Hamilton Ohio*

This is a most unusual distinction and honor for any book and Smith said he had expressed his sincere thanks for the honor.

Mr. Henry E. Edmunds, Ford Archivist further said in his letter to Smith: The book "does credit to Dr. Carver and to you as one of his students --- I wish you every success in achieving widespread sale for the book."

## Where To Get Copies

In addition to bookstores, persons may order from the publisher, the Exposition Press, Inc., 386 Fourth ave., New York 16, N. Y. Price \$2.50. Also they are available at the Butler County American, 422 S. Front st., Hamilton Ohio

*Butler County American*  
Alvin D. Smith, author of the book "George Washington Carver: Man of God" visited Cleveland this week and was pleased to learn that his book was doing fine there.

He discovered that a beauty shop—Bradford's Modern Beatorium had sold many books. *Hamilton Ohio*

Talked Long With Jackson

Smith visited the editor of the Call - Post--W.O. Walker who is advertising the book in its Cleveland editions. On the paper's staff is Wm. D. Jackson, sports editor, former secretary of Hamilton's Second Ward Center. Smith and Jackson talked long, discussing Hamilton and then Jackson posed with Smith for the paper's photographer. *Lat. 4-24-54*

The author's busy schedule took him to the famous Phillis Wheatley home for women where he was greeted. *P. 1*

Cleveland has one of the largest Tuskegee Institute club's in the country made up of former Carver students.





*Call p. 5 Fri. 1-22-54*  
**300th YEAR TRIBUTE.**—Dr. E. Stanley Jones (second from right) presents a copy of his latest book, "Growing Spiritually," to Joseph Kohn, in recognition of the 80-year-old converted Jew's evangelistic crusade in the predominantly Negro populated Bedford-Stuyvesant area. Mr. Kohn is a member of the Lafayette Avenue Church of God of which the Rev. Evans Marshall, who is on an eight-week evangelistic campaign in the West Indies, is the pastor. The occasion was World Evangelist

Jones' visit launching the 200th anniversary celebration of Protestantism in Brooklyn, N. Y. Left to right are Dr. J. Henry Carpenter, executive secretary of the Brooklyn Division of the Protestant Council of N.Y.C.; Dr. B. J. Lowry, Zion Baptist church; Mr. Kohn, Dr. W. A. Carrington, First AME Zion; Mrs. Beulah Palmer, Concord Baptist Church Deaconess board chairman; Dr. Jones and Dr. Gardner C. Taylor, Concord Baptist—Bing Photo.



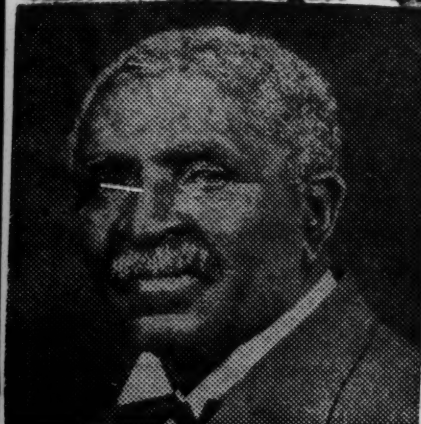
# To Exhibit Smith's Carver Book At Booksellers Conv.

The new book, "George Washington Carver: Man of God" by Alvin D. Smith will be exhibited to the nation's booksellers and librarians, according to the publishers, the Exposition Press of New York.

From June 1 to 4, it will be exhibited at the American Booksellers Association 1954 Convention Trade Exhibit in Atlantic City, N. J., at the Ambassador Hotel.

June 20 to 26, the book will be on exhibit before the largest library group in the world—the American Library Association's 73rd Annual Convention, meeting in Minneapolis, Minn. in the Public Auditorum.

And on Oct. 18, 19, 20 it will be exhibited before the New England Library Association Conference, held at the New Ocean House, Swampscott, Mass. This is the most representative professional group in this important literary region of New England.



George Washington Carver:  
**MAN OF GOD**  
BY ALVIN D. SMITH

Mrs. Gladys S. Sepin, Librarian of Lane Public Library, Hamilton, said this week that copies of the book, "George Washington Carver: Man of God" by Alvin D. Smith had been ordered from the publishers — Exposition Press, Inc. of New York.

The book, gives for the first time Dr. Carver's recipe for happiness as he taught it in his Bible

Class at Tuskegee Co. / Roosevelt Junior High School, Hamilton, a few weeks ago placed the book in the school's library.

This week, Lane Public Library sent out folders, giving its 88th annual report. The folder—"Take A Look" gave the many services that are featured for the benefit of Hamiltonians as well as persons living in the county.

It maintains two branches, the Booker T. Washington branch in the Second Ward Center and one in Lindenwald. Also, a Bookmobile Service for the county.

Among the other services are the Hospital Service, Children Summer Reading Club, Drive-up Book Return at Main Library, Nursery Story Hour, Book Exhibits, Business Service, Films, Recordings and many others.

The report shows that 528,789 books have been circulated. Currently on hand it has 112,924 volumes of books in its collection, over 60,000 pamphlets, 1,298 films and recordings and 366 current newspapers and magazines.



George Washington Carver: Man of God, by Alvin D. Smith. Exposition Press 186 Fourth Avenue, New York. 76 pp. \$2.50.

This reviewer picked up George Washington Carver: Man of God with considerable skepticism.

Why, he wondered, should anyone follow the excellent biographies of George Washington Carver by Rackham Holt and Shirley Graham with yet another biography?

It is true that Mrs. Holt's book was published nearly twelve years ago, but it was a full treatment and even Dr. Carver himself, who cooperated with its author and saw the manuscript, must have considered it fairly definitive.

Miss Graham's book, only recently published for younger readers, made the record complete. So why another?

And why (if this new Carverana was good and/or arresting because it presented new material) should the author of it apparently find it necessary to issue it as a vanity book?

But in spite of these two strikes against it, Alvin D. Smith's book has something more than just a little to recommend it to anyone interested in George Washington Carver.

It is not, as this reviewer first suspected, just another instance of supererogation. It supplements both Mrs. Holt and Miss Graham.

This is not to say that G. W. C.: Man of God is a really necessary or even an important work, but only that it is an addition and that it is interesting.

First, it is written by one of Dr. Carver's former students, and thus one sees the so-called "wizard of Tuskegee" from a new point of view.

Dr. Carver's relationship to his students seems to have been warm, friendly and basically equalitarian.

## By SAUNDERS REDDING

Certainly the author indicates this, and there is no reason to doubt him. Dr. Carver joking with his students, admonishing them about their health, their studies, their personal appearance; drawing lessons for them, giving them examples—this all adds up to a sketch of a man deeply attached to young men and profoundly concerned for their welfare.

Mr. Smith does not try to write a narrative. What he does is very simple.

Drawing on notes taken as a student in Dr. Carver's Bible class, the author describes

# Book Review

cribes the atmosphere and the conduct and sets forth the verbal give and take that dominated these weekly fifteen minutes sessions.

The fact that what he considers pearls of wisdom dropping from Dr. Carver's lips are not always pearls detracts only a little from the book's interest as a student's view of a great man.

And, indeed, Dr. Carver never made any pretense to wisdom. He had decorum. He had profound common sense. He had religious conviction. He had the true teacher's instinct for ferreting out the intellectual needs of his students.

So, if his comments on and interpretations of the Bible are neither new nor brilliant, they are at least direct and clear.

Mr. Smith's own contribution to the Bible class came in the form of jingles and rhymes inspired by topics that Professor Carver discussed.

These the author puts in the final chapter of his little book. They are not very good, even as jingles and rhymes, but their homely, earnest quality is of the nature of the warm and friendly man to whom Man of God is a tribute.

## REVIEW OF CARVER BOOK APPEARS IN EASTERN PAPERS

Chain Writer  
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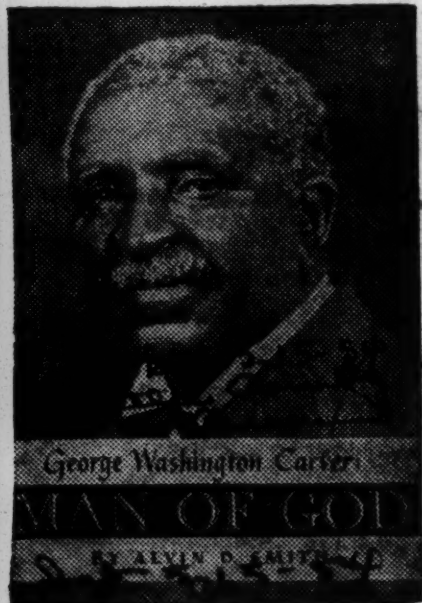
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# African President Coming To U.S. To Arrive Oct. 18

President Wm. V. S. Tubman of Liberia, the African Republic founded by former U. S. slaves over 100 years ago will arrive in the United States, Monday, Oct. 18 for three weeks. He was invited by President Eisenhower and will be the Chief Executive's guest at the White House.

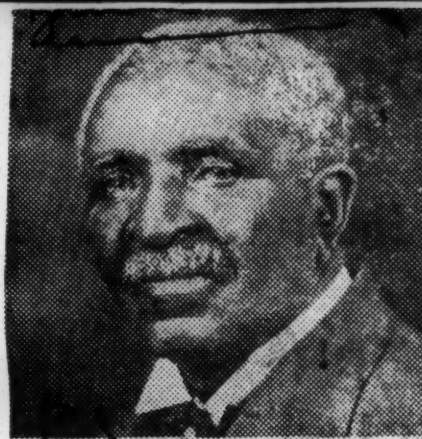
## Praises Smith's Carver Book

Before leaving Liberia for the United States, President Tubman wrote Alvin D. Smith, Editor of the Butler County American saying: "It was a pleasure for me to have read your book, 'George Washington Carver: Man of God.' It served as an inspiration and strengthening of my own spiritual forces."

The book, which gives in print for the first time Dr. Carver's recipe for happy living was written by Smith from notes made while attending Dr. Carver's Bible Class at Tuskegee. Exposition Press, 386 Fourth Ave., New York is the publisher. The commendation received from Liberia's famous President is one of the many the author has received from persons in high places as well as from many in the most humble stations of life.

## To Visit Other Cities

After President Tubman's visit with President Eisenhower in Washington, he will visit New York, Akron, Cleveland, Detroit, Baltimore, Atlanta, New Orleans, Chicago, and colleges: Tuskegee, Howard Univ., Morgan State, Univ. of Chicago, Lafayette, Langston, Lincoln and Atlanta Univ.



George Washington Carver

MAN OF GOD

BY ALVIN D. SMITH

## SOUTHERN PAPER PRAISES CARVER BOOK BY SMITH

The book, "George Washington Carver: Man of God" by Alvin D. Smith continues to draw high praise since it was published several months ago by the Exposition Press of New York.

The Birmingham (Ala.) World in a review said: "These essays in everyday religion give to all who read them—regardless of their activity, race, color—the key by which to obtain prosperity, peace of mind, happiness and success in life."



26b 1954

# GULF STREAM NORTH

Earl Conrad's new book, "Gulf Stream North" is the story of men who search the sea for their livelihoods and battle the sea for their lives. It is interesting reading. ~~It is~~



**New Earl Conrad  
book on Negro out**

NEW YORK — "Gulf Stream North," a documentary novel about Negro fishermen by Earl Conrad, will be published by Doubleday on May 6. The book reports in fictional form the experience of the Negro and white crew of a menhaden fishing boat off the coast of Florida. The book completes a trilogy in which Conrad has sought to reproduce the spoken language of the Southern Negro. First two books by Conrad in this series were the non-fiction work "Scottsboro Boy," co-authored with Haywood Patterson, and "Rock Bottom." A native of Auburn, N. Y., Conrad has written frequently on Negro-white relations. "Gulf Stream North" is his 8th book.



## Inside the Half-Island of Haiti

HAITI: The Black Republic. By Selden Rodman. Illustrated. 168 pp. New York: The Devin-Adair Company. \$5.

By IVAN SANDERSON

THERE have probably been more nonsense and outright falsehood written about Haiti than about any other country, and there may well have been more writing about it in proportion to its size than about any other area in the world. But without decrying all the literature of the past we may none the less breathe a sigh of relief for Selden Rodman's book. At last Haiti has been treated with insight, dignity, considerable penetration and not a little humor—or, rather, wit, which is something different and of higher worth in French culture.

Mr. Sanderson, a zoologist, is author of many travel books, including "Caribbean Treasure," which describes his experiences in Haiti.

Haitians are probably unique in that they too can appreciate their own incongruities. At last they should find in "Haiti: The Black Republic" an account of their country that they will not want to fling out of the nearest window.

This rather slim work may at first give the impression that it is heavy-going; it is packed with facts, including facts on such minutiae as nightclub rates and the order of unnamed streets in Jacmel—a sore subject even with Haitians. But once you start to read it you will probably not put it down.

This is a sort of super guide book—and more. It gives all that an outsider wants to know about the history, the people, the land, the religion and, above all, the arts of Haiti. It also includes a detailed tourist routine with costs that is so good it brings to light all kinds of

items worth seeing in small towns which this reviewer inhabited but about which he had never before heard. Mr. Rodman is a poet and an artist in the true senses of those titles, and while this well fits him to investigate Haiti, he has, as we feel Haitians must admit, proved a very real influence in the cultural development of that country since he went to work there.

The great thing about Mr. Rodman is that he is not prejudiced in any sense, and particularly not in the restricted sense regarding race. He actually has the audacity to state that the African or "black," or whatever we should call the Negro peoples *ex Africa*, have profound abilities of their own. Even more amazing to those who know Haiti, he dares to say that those of mixed racial stock, or "the elite" as he calls them, also have a great deal to offer. This may

sound incomprehensible to an outsider, but the so-called black has so long been regarded as inferior and the Creole of mixed race has taken such a beating from the blacks and whites for so long that the true qualities and contributions of both, not only to Haitian but to general culture, have been overlooked. Both in their own way are outstanding people, though in Haiti they are isolated on half a small, overpopulated island. And Mr. Rodman explains why.

We have no criticisms of this book, though we personally prefer *vaudou* to *voudon*, and we are doubtful of some of the references to Africa; also, the title is a bit unfortunate. Haiti is not the "Black Republic," though nearly 90 per cent of the populace may be these so-called blacks. An enormous contribution to its structure has been and still is being made by the "lights" or elite, their greatest probably being the recognition of the blacks not only as their equals but also as their leaders—as occasion and great talent has arisen among them.

It is a very hard thing to live

down a colonial heritage, a class and money consciousness, a scuttling by a Napoleon, massacre and racial hatreds engendered by others. The Haitians have succeeded in living it down to an inspiring extent. Despite wars, revolutions and dictators, Haitians are true democrats and extraordinarily tolerant. They have also made real friends outside: such a friend is Selden Rodman.



PAUL BYRD, KANSAS CITIAN  
WRITES HANDBOOK ON HIGHER  
MATHEMATICS.

---

Paul F. Byrd, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest L. Byrd, 2403 Vine St. is the author of a book on higher mathematics entitled "Handbook of Elliptic Integrals for Engineers and Physicists" which is to be published this month. Mr. Byrd now lives in Palo Alto, Calif., where he is employed by the government as an aeronautical research scientist. The book is volume 67 of the world famous mathematics series, "Die Grundlehren der Mathematischen Wissenschaften in Einzeldarstellungen" and is the second book in this collection that is written in English.

Mr. Byrd served six years as an officer in the United States Air Force as a meteorologist station in Chicago, and was formerly an assistant professor of Mathematics at Fisk Univ., Nashville, Tenn.

In September, Mr. Byrd will be sent by the government to Switzerland to study for a year. He will be accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Rosa Chinn Byrd, formerly of Chicago, and their three children, Bonita, 10; Paul, Jr., 7, and Benito Bruce, 2.



PAUL F. BYRD

Call  
P.2  
Fri. 1-8-54  
Kansas City, Mo.



# Writer Blasts Negro Inferiority

By LAWRENCE C. BURR

SUMMIT, N. J. (ANP) — A strong supporter of Dr. Daniel F. Malan, Prime Minister of segregated South Africa, has caused the greatest stir in many years by writing a challenging book, "Has the Afrikaner Nation a Future?" In the book he says that the Negro is not inferior to the white man and is capable of achieving a level of civilization equal to that of the white man. Except for its source, the statement introduces no information not already known to people free of bias.

It is significant, however, because of the writer, G. D. Scholtz, is assistant editor of one of the two principal newspapers supporting Malan's infamous doctrine of racial segregation. Being an ardent supporter of Afrikaner nationalism, Scholtz will find it a little hard to reconcile his position recorded in his latest book with those espoused by the nationalist party. When both are both conceived and enforced by one and the same group, reconciliation is not essential. This was proved by Nazi Germany.

After exploiting an ample supply of cheap black labor, the book advises the Afrikaner nation of 1,600,000 to emulate the State of Israel by depending on themselves as a source of labor. Negroes are needed no longer because they are becoming interested in higher wages, unions, and other institutions designed to raise their pitifully low standard of living. It will be recalled that in the gold mines of South Africa, Negroes performing the same kind of work as that done by whites are paid a much lower salary primarily because of race.

In rationalizing the unfortunate plight of the white nation in the Union of South Africa, the author amends the introduction of slavery by their ancestors, the Dutch, and their subsequent dependence on Negro labor. That was decades ago. Why are they just coming to realize the folly of their ways after a whole nation has been built partly at the expense of Africans themselves?

The book, written in the Afrikaans language, continues by making one of the boldest statements on the Negro emanating in Africa: The fact must be recognized that the Negro sooner or later—probably sooner than later—will

## HAS THE AFRIKANER NATION A FUTURE?

be equal to the white man in civilization. In this statement might be found the deathblow of racism in many important sections of the world, including our own country; for if the white man in South Africa comes to realize that one group's way of life can not be erected on the backs of others, a real battle has been won.

Another vital point made in connection with the struggle for equality is that, once it is conceded that the black man is capable of shouldering his own responsibility of citizenship in the community of nations, "he cannot then be denied equal political and economic rights." These are among the very goals that even freedom-loving people in the United States have been seeking and advocating.

In the event these principles ever are embraced by the whites in South Africa, the task of preparing a broad educational program for the 8,600,000 Negroes will claim attention. Most of these are illiterate and undeveloped. The next logical step pointed out by the author is the fact that the government will be taken over by the Negro who then will be responsible for the fate of the white population, about the size of Estonia or Latvia.

One of the most devastating blows struck at segregation was when Scholtz says "history has shown that any effort to hold

down a majority of the population in any land always has ended in catastrophe." What a brilliant observation! Is this not the same sensation we in the United States have taken with respect to the Negro? One does not have to go to the trouble of writing a book to say the very same thing that is more or less obvious. It is significant, however, that it is a white man saying these things in South Africa for if a man of color were to publish the very same book, he would have to post a deposit with the printing company to ensure expenses.

While there is little likelihood that any of these beliefs will be implemented, they do imply the futility of man's efforts to suppress one part of the human family while the other enjoys the luxury of freedom. This book could indicate a sense of frustration on the part of a minority group over the prospect of living at the mercy of the very majority they had mistreated for many, many years.

The solution of South Africa's problem lies not only in the recognition that the white man can no longer impose his way of life on another group. The Negro

himself must want freedom and equality. The drive for a change must come from him; it can never be transplanted by the white man. His goals must be broad and realistic. They must include a place for himself, the white man and the Asian. They must be conceived within his own cultural patterns but must, at the same time, have regard for the heritage of others. It is to be applauded that at long last the white man in South Africa has gained courage enough to express such feelings as Scholtz has. It must present certain social and economic problems for him. Does the black man in Africa, in America have the integrity to extend his hand to such a person in our eternal quest for brotherhood and equality?



26b 1954

## History of Elks To Be Printed

WASHINGTON. — (ANP) — The first complete history of the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World will soon come off press and be ready for circulation. 11-19-54

The history was written by historian and Elk brother, Dr. Charles H. Wesley, president, Central State college.

Dr. Wesley received great applause at the 54th grand lodge convention meeting in Chicago last August when he read to the body certain chapters from the history which he was then writing. The grand lodge went on record, in an unanimous resolution, authorizing the publication of the history as soon as possible, and calling upon officers of the grand lodge, grand temple, subordinate lodges and temples, councils and members to avail themselves of copies of this historical document.

Since this is the most important and historic book ever published by the order, recording its growth and development into the largest Negro fraternal order in the United States, officials feel it will be a powerful lever in building up the order and increasing its membership and raising the influence and leadership of the organization throughout the world.

Robert H. Johnson, grand exalted ruler, has expressed great satisfaction in the publication of the history and informs members they can obtain full information on how copies might be obtained by writing the grand secretary, W. C. Houston, at 1915 14th St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

Dr. Charles H. Wesley's first complete history of the Improved, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World, will be published soon. Dr. Wesley is president of Central State College at Wilberforce, Ohio.

HISTORY OF THE IMPROVED, BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF E L K S



## Civil War History

A HISTORY OF THE SOUTHERN Confederacy, by Clement Eaton (Macmillan, \$5.50).

This is an exhaustive and objective study of the many phases of what the author calls the "War for Southern Independence." A Southerner who did his graduate work at Harvard and who has taught in Northern and Southern universities, Mr. Eaton has succeeded to a marked degree in keeping his prejudices, if he has any, out of the story, although he admits in his preface that he "may have been influenced at times by the ordinary man's sympathy for the underdog in a fight and by my Southern birth."

Not only is this an objective analysis but it is also a comprehensive treatment. In addition to the military and political stories which have been frequently treated, the author includes accounts of the social, economic, and cultural phases. He is interested in the "human drama," in logistics, the morale of the soldiers and the civilians, and the life of each class. The result is a well rounded and relatively complete although brief history of the Confederacy.

Beginning with the John Brown Raid, which the author thinks solidified Southern sentiment, Mr. Eaton discusses the secession of the Lower and Upper South. To him secession was a part of a conservative movement which resulted in several states attempting to alter their state constitutions so as to make them less democratic. He further holds that emotionalism and precipitate actions on the part of the leaders of the Lower South possibly brought secession before their people were ready.

In his appraisal of the leaders of the Confederacy, the author deals rather gently with most of the generals and Davis. He is a little hard on Alexander H. Stevens, Joe Brown, Zeb Vance, and most other leaders. He reveals an appreciation of the military and economic problems of the South, but he thinks the commissary, quartermaster, diplomacy, finances, railroads and manufacturing were ineffectively handled. In military strategy, the leaders failed to appreciate the significance of the western theater and the value of concentration of troops for the main battles. The failure of the Confederacy, he feels, was not so much due to state sovereignty as to economic causes and to inopportune defeats such as Lee's failure at Antietam where recognition by Europe was in sight. After Gettysburg, he holds, there was a gradual collapse on the economic front, a decline of morale at home and in the army, factors which resulted in a loss of the will to fight and, therefore, disintegration.—HENRY T. SHANKS, Birmingham-Southern College.



26b 1954

## INTERGROUP EDUCATION

The most forthright book on race relations to come to the reviewer's attention this year has been Lloyd and Elaine Cook's "Intergroup Education" (McGraw-Hill). One of the excellent McGraw-Hill series in education (of which Harold Benjamin is the proficient consulting editor), this study is a direct result of a promise made by the authors to the late George F. Zook, past president of the American Council on Education, a promise that they would prepare a college textbook on intergroup education addressed to students and teachers at all educational levels.

Explaining that "intergroup education is quite new," the authors point to its derivation from intercultural education and proceed to use the two terms interchangeably. What intergroup education is, why it is needed, its goals, methods, and results—these and other questions are answered here.

Part one concerns majority and minority relations; part 2, current studies of prejudice and discrimination; part 3, changing people in democratic directions by educational means; part four, further training for advanced intergroupers. Effectively demonstrating that "our most urgent business, next to achieving world peace and justice, is to understand prejudice, to remove discrimination, to promote mutual understanding, and to develop leaders in this work."

"Intergroup Education" is a first-class human relations text.—RANDOLPH FISHER, Savannah, Ga.

## INTERGROUP EDUCATION



26b 1954

IN THE CASTLE OF MY SKIN

**Novel by Negro author  
chosen by Book club**

NEW YORK — Selected by the Book Find club for January, along with "The Secret Diary of Harold L. Ickes" is a new novel by a young Negro author, George Lamming, "In the Castle Of My Skin."

Called by the publishers a brilliant, imaginative self-portrait of a Negro boy, growing to maturity on the island of Barbados in the West Indies, this is the first novel by a young writer of "unusually rich perception and talent," according to the Book Find club.



# Books of The Times

By ORVILLE PRESCOTT

IN the Union of South Africa politics may boil with irrational frenzy, racial antipathies may fester and there may be blood on the moon; but there, as everywhere else, people are primarily concerned with their personal affairs and the problems met in each day's living. The dark background of tension and crisis against which they play their little individual parts is



Albert Segal

a perpetual nervous strain (as is the cold war for peoples destined to live or die in the center of the international arena), but today's personal vexation is more pressing than tomorrow's racial convulsion. The vexations confronted by the members of one South African family in one day are chronicled in "Johannesburg Friday,"\* by Albert Segal. This odd novel is the newest in the long line of superior novels which have burst into bloom in South Africa since World War II. The more tense the political and racial outlook of their country, the more determinedly South African novelists seem to write. Maybe there is something electric in the atmosphere of mounting crisis which is stimulating to authorship. At any rate, the number of books produced by the English-speaking segment of the population, fewer than a million people, is impressive. Mr. Segal's novel is impressive, too, in its own right—not for its craftsmanship, which is stiff and outmoded, but for its insight into the human heart.

## Action Confined to One Day

"Johannesburg Friday" is the story of the Leventhal family. The book is divided into four sections devoted to four members of the family. All its action is confined to one day. Each section is written from the point of view of one of the Leventhals. But, instead of writing his novel with the tools of modernist technique, Mr. Segal has used a narrative method of his own. He has cut dialogue to a bare trace and substituted indirect discourse. In the same way he has cut stream-of-consciousness and substituted indirect exposition of the substance of thought. And, for the most part, he does not show what kind of people his characters are by allowing them to reveal themselves in action. He just describes them at length.

The result of such a fictional technique is a slow, solid, heavy book with no narrative pace,

no emotional impact and no individual vitality. And yet, because of Mr. Segal's deep understanding of people and the cumulative effect of the information he provides, "Johannesburg Friday" slowly acquires a stature and an interest which seem most unlikely in its opening pages.

Max Leventhal ran a bookshop which would not have kept his family if several of his grown children did not have jobs. A kind and gentle man, a student of the Talmud and a lecturer on Spinoza, Max was patient and devout. He was also exasperating, a perpetual cougher, a snuff-taker and a floor-spitter. He had shown great business ability when young, but had long ago lost interest in money. He was a good man, but his slovenly habits and appalling manners taxed the patience of others.

His wife, Sophie, was a good woman, too, at least in her dedicated devotion to her family. Her love for her children was sincere and generous. It was her only and her redeeming virtue. Sophie was bitter, unhappy, filled with self-pity, a chronic complainer, invincibly stupid. Sophie's temper was frightful. She had a mania for authority and could vent it only on her helpless Zulu houseboy. Life was always hard for Sophie, filled with disappointments and frustrations. An obnoxious woman, she becomes less obnoxious as one learns more about her and understands the pettiness of her life, a life so petty that "reverence for the stomach was the cornerstone of her creed."

## Children Worried and Unhappy

Laurie was a pharmacist's apprentice, a would-be writer and the worried lover of Poppy Harris, who might have good cause to make Laurie marry her. A confused young man, Laurie has a less positive personality than either his father or mother. But his work in the pharmacy brought him into contact with a succession of customers both black and white whom Mr. Segal makes interesting in his usual solemn manner of imparting essential information.

Jesse was the unhappiest of all the Leventhals because she worked in a law office and loved the boss' son. The boss' son was a promising architect and a nice person, but he was a Gentile and Jesse believed that she could not marry him without profoundly hurting their parents, without risking their chances of happiness. Regularly rejecting the man she loved was a frightful burden on Jesse.

In and out of the law office and the bookshop as well as the drug store circulated customers and friends and Mr. Segal makes many a true and discerning comment about them, men and women, white and black, Jew and Gentile. "Johannesburg Friday" is not primarily about the race conflict in South Africa, but that conflict is never far off stage. While the Leven-

thals fret and scheme, the clouds gather and Mr. Segal makes shrewd comments—like this about Sophie's feeling for her noisy 13-year-old: "For all her love of his presence, she recognized the luxury of his absence." Or this about Sophie and Laurie: "That she shouldered the anxieties of the entire family, while he was weighed down merely with his own, seemed to have passed him by." 330 W. 42nd Street



26b 1954

JOHN BROWN'S BODY

to 500s  
EARLY MEDIEVAL MUSIC Up to  
1300, edited by Dom Anselm  
Hughes (Oxford University,  
\$8.75). Volume II of the New  
Oxford History of Music.

FRENCH PASTRY, by Charlotte  
Turgeon. (Oxford University,  
\$3.75). Recipes.

ISRAEL The Emergence of a  
New Nation, by Oscar Kraines  
(Public Affairs Press, \$1, pa-  
per-bound).

JOHN BROWN'S BODY, by Stephen  
Vincent Benet, illustrations by  
Fritz Kredel and Warren  
Chappell (Rinehart, \$5). De  
luxé illustrated edition of the  
poem first published in 1928.



## Emory Issues *revised* Bias Opinions

*p. 1*  
The Emory University Law School has just released a compilation of opinions on segregation dealing specifically with the recent United States Supreme Court decision outlawing segregation in the public schools.

*Atlanta, Ga.*  
This comprehensive 170-page report is the school's widely read "Journal of Public Law," and contains articles and discussions by experts in the fields of law, sociology and economics. It advocates no point of view, but represents a symposium of attitudes.

*Wed. 8-4-54*  
Contributors to the report, which is available at the Lamar School of Law, Emory University, include: Dr. Howard Odum, leading Southern sociologist; Dr. Rupert B. Vance, University of North Carolina; John Temple Graves, Birmingham editor and columnist; and several prominent professors of law.



## WRITING IS BEAUTIFUL'

Lillian Smith's 'The Journey'  
Somber, Not Easy to Read

THE JOURNEY. By Lillian Smith. Cleveland: World Publishing Co. 256 pages. \$3.50.

Reviewed by SAM F. LUCCHESI

Retrospection and introspection . . . these are the fruits that Georgia's Lillian Smith found on her "journey."

Perhaps a brief passage from the author's "prologue" will give the reader an inkling as to what

"The Journey" is all about: " . . . It is not my life's story . . . It is only a handful of mem-

ories, a few experiences, mine and those of people I have known. I have used them as a sculptor uses dabs of clay, pressing them on, one by one, until finally an image is made of what a human being looks like to me . . .

" . . . I have put down here an image of the human being made from my own experience in life. Its meaning is the meaning these memories hold for me."

A critical review of "The Journey" is difficult to organize and present. The writing is beautiful, the motivating themes tender.

Topics run the gamut from thoughts inspired by memories of "the village idiot" to the beauty of Lamar Dodd's paintings displayed at the University of Georgia.

"The Journey" itself takes the reader from Toots Shor's New York eatery to scenes of the author's childhood in Georgia and Florida.

Lillian Smith is a champion of the minorities and some of the most forceful passages in this work plead for a better understanding among men.

On the whole, this is a somber book. It is entirely devoid of comedy relief. We did not find it easy to read, but if in writing it Lillian Smith has found "self-understanding and contentment," we're glad she wrote it.



"THE JOURNEY" NOT AUTHOR'S LIFE STORY  
Lillian Smith Calls It Memories, Etc.

Swift not always winner—

Not the distance,  
but how you run

THE JOURNEY, by Lillian Smith (World Publishing Co., \$3.50).

LILLIAN SMITH has the reputation of being an ardent liberal of a type that many Southerners dislike, and even fear. Much of that reputation grew out of her highly successful and much-debated novel, "Strange Fruit," the tragic story of a love affair between a white man and a Negro girl in the South. But most of those who condemned that book for its theme praised its writing and courage and the obvious sincerity of its author. They will find those qualities in this book.

How Miss Smith got that way is the subject of this autobiographical book. It is a story of how she, the descendant of several generations of Georgia plantation folk, became an ardent and professional advocate of social justice for all, including Negroes. She does this by relating, not necessarily in chronological order, a number of incidents in her life.

MOST OF THE incidents involve people. Above all else, she is a lover of humanity, and despite her outcries against man's inhumanity to man, finds many people good. She would have more such. "There is no substitute," she says, "for the good human being in human affairs."

The people who influenced the development of her philosophy of life were varied. They are a school teacher, a small boy who lost his legs in an accident, a village idiot, her own grandmother, a war widow, one motel operator who thought McCarthy ought to take on the Jews and Catholics after he had run all the Communists out of the country and another motel couple who defied convention, and possibly the law, in giving shelter to two well-dressed, educated Negro women on a stormy night—a lot of people, in all walks of life, mostly white people.

IN A WAY IT IS not a clear story that Miss Smith tells. That may be because her course was not always clear to her as she traveled on this journey toward a working self-understanding and a working faith in humanity. Miss Smith sometimes feels too keenly to think clearly. Her concluding paragraph is evidence of both traits:

"To believe in something not yet proved and to underwrite it with our lives: It is the only way we can leave the future open. Man, surrounded by facts, permitting himself no surmise, no intuitive flash, no great hypothesis, no risk is in a locked cell. . . . To find the point where hypothesis and fact meet; the delicate equilibrium between dream and reality; the place where fantasy and earthy things are metamorphosed into a work of art; the hour when faith in the future becomes knowledge of the past, to lay down one's power for others in need; to shake off the old ordeal and get ready for the new; to question, knowing that never can the full answer be found; to accept uncertainties quietly, even our incomplete knowledge of God: This is what man's journey is about, I think."

THE LAST WORDS ARE, perhaps, significant. They reveal the author's humility and her acceptance of the fact that the journey of life is never ended and its destination never assured. The book, in substance, is the search of a sensitive soul for the good life and discovering in the end that it is the manner in which the search is conducted that counts.

Of Miss Smith it may be said as it was of Franklin D. Roosevelt—that she usually asks the right questions, even when she gives the wrong answers.—J. F. ROTHERMEL.



# BOOK REVIEWS

by

GERTRUDE MARTIN

"The Journey," by Lillian Smith, is a searching into the innermost recesses of the human mind and heart as well as a journey through a part of Georgia and scenes and memories of the author's childhood. Like Miss Smith's and "Killers of the Dream," it is written with great perception and understanding in prose that is both lucid and beautiful.

In "The Journey" Miss Smith seeks "to find an image of the human being that I could feel proud of. I wanted to reassure myself of mortal strength, man's power not only to survive on this earth but to continue growing in stature." From her early memories and experiences, from her reading, from observation and talking with those whom she met on her way, Miss Smith evolves a hopeful answer to the question with which she set out.

The questions are universal and in seeking an answer the author looks into the depths as well as the heights of the human spirit. In an attempt to discover what makes men of much the same background so different from each other she finds that "it is not money and facts that make the real differences. It is something closer to one's body and the people one loves (or fails to love) and as distant as God that drives one man to bind himself to his human world and another to keep slashing at his ties."

There are glimpses here of Miss Smith's past, of her gentle, conventional mother; of Little Grandma who found external dangers a challenge but who could not look within to the internal dangers that might threaten her or her family; of Carl, the "village idiot" who was born too soon to escape the ridicule and the taunts of the children of his town. There are also the stories of others whom Miss Smith met on her way; Cephas, the book-burner in spirit, and his wife, Susie, who had retreated from reality; Ellen and Timothy,

the strong young couple who had discovered how to be democratic in Georgia; and Marty, John and Bill, the family who met tragedy with banners flying.

No one reading "The Journey" can fail to recognize the basic truth of what Miss Smith writes nor be moved by her account of men struggling against the odds that face them and most often surmounting them. There is a gallantry of the spirit that links Miss Molly, the teacher in Georgia who gave her pupils a glimpse of the world that at least one never forgot, with Marty, the young mother faced with the crippling of her son, with Timothy who ran a motel but whose vision was unlimited.

Miss Smith's closing sentences are hopeful and inspiring: "No, our age will never go down in history as the age of anxiety, nor as the atomic age . . . I believe future generations will think of our times as the age of wholeness: when the walls began to fall; when fragments began to be related to each other; when man learned finally to esteem tenderness and reason and awareness and the word which set him apart forever from other living creatures . . ."

"The Journey" is an open door to understanding of man in his complexity. Miss Smith's sympathy encompasses all of men's faults and errors as well as their shining virtues. This is a book to be read and treasured for the understanding and love of humanity it offers.

"The Journey" . . . by . . . Lillian Smith; The World Publishing Co.; 2231 West 110th St.; Cleveland 2, Ohio; 1954; \$3.50





Ashanti pottery head, Gold Coast.

## A Search For Home

AFRICA: Land of My Fathers. By Era Bell Thompson. 281 pp. New York: Doubleday & Co. \$3.75.

By PETER ABRAHAMS

THE editor of Ebony magazine, Era Bell Thompson set out for Africa in the spring of last year "looking for blood ties between the American Negro and his African cousin. I had wanted to know what it would be like to come 'home.'" Her account of that search for ancestors "three centuries removed" is highly subjective, admirably honest and sincere. After three months on the continent, she writes, there was only one place about which she felt no doubt: Liberia. "It was home if I wanted to make it that."

Quite early in her tour Miss Thompson began to rely heavily on her American passport. Her first shock came when a customs clerk told her curtly that she could not enter Accra. The same thing happened later in Zanzibar. But her real trouble did not begin until she entered Kenya. While she was in the Congo, the whites treated her civilly and she dug deep into the color problem. The reports of her talks with some Congo Negroes is scoop material.

The color bar really hit Miss Thompson when she crossed the border into British multi-racial Africa. Central Africa was awful and her train journey down Rhodesia had a nightmarish quality. In Johannesburg Miss Thompson got off the plane and was immediately told to "get out." She took the first train

to Portuguese East Africa. Other places were better, but not much. Not till she reached Ethiopia and Egypt did Miss Thompson finally relax and the nightmare end.

Making this journey was an act of courage, and the description, in subjective terms, of the psychological torture suffered by an educated Negro in multi-racial Africa today gives her book a rare importance.

## A Prodigal Daughter's Report on Africa

"AFRICA, LAND OF MY FATHERS," by Era Bell Thompson [Doubleday, 281 pages, \$3.75].

Reviewed by Roi Otley [Author of

"No Green Pastures"]

Era Bell Thompson, a somewhat timid and cautious person, made a three month safari into Africa and reports her experiences. The journey, which she describes romantically as that of a prodigal daughter who had not been home for 300 years, covered 12,000 miles and 18 countries by plane, with excursions into the interior by train and automobile.

Her tour, she writes, "was prompted by the same desire that prompts other Americans to return to Europe and Asia to visit their 'old country.' I, too, wanted to return to the land of my forefathers to see if the motherland was as dark as it had been painted and to see the folks."

In the process, she talked with many people—representing the top hats and tom toms of Africa. Many were frank in describing their views and the conditions under which they live. But they were a surprise to her in many ways—for, perhaps, she expected to feel the emotion of meeting a racial kinsman, and actually they had little in common beyond their complexions, drawn as they were from vastly different social and cultural environments.

This lack of basic understanding was incisively illustrated by her exchanges about

the United States. Congo men asked, "Is it true that you are also separated from the white man in your country?"

She tried to explain the sectional differences in the United States. "If all is America," they pursued, "why is it not the same in all places?"

Not only was she compelled to explain, often defend, American racial morality, but to deny motives that white America does not entertain. She herself, before going abroad, had frequently criticized the failures of the American system. She confesses that she often felt helpless trying to explain the "race problem" to people without any background or concept of conditions in the United States.

Actually, she discovered, there are too many subtleties about Africa that escape detection, too many shadings beyond the grasp of a transient. But if the soul of Africa eluded her, the melancholy conditions under which the blacks live did not.

Miss Thompson is a competent journalist, but she has cluttered her book with nebulous details, and her reporting is all too brief and fragmentary.



Era Bell Thompson

## U. S. Negro writes of Africa visit

AFRICA, LAND OF MY FATHERS, by Era Bell Thompson (Doubleday, \$3.75).

IT IS REFRESHING to read a book about Africa that is so pregnant with little-known, interesting, basic facts and presented in such a readable style.

This book should find a eager audience, for the role of Africa in the historic development of our times is familiar to relatively few.

The volume deals with the everyday happenings, problems and aspirations of the natives and foreign fortune hunters.

These facts are cleverly portrayed in this narrative of the author's African safari. She traveled the so-called dark continent for three months seeking to learn the truth about the land of her forefathers, to see how she would be received and to feel her reaction to them.

SHE ENTERED the continent at Liberia, touched 19 countries

and emerged at ~~Accra~~. The truth she sought became many truths, for each country differs socially, politically and economically from every other country mainly because of the varying types of administration of the European powers in control.

With regards to Miss Thompson's reception, there was a wide range from the warm outstretched arms of Liberia to the completely barred doors of Zanzibar.

The author's reaction to her experiences is an intense feeling of pride in her African blood and black heritage, a sense of brotherhood with all Africans and a deeper awareness of her loyalty to the U. S. A.—PAR-NELL J. JONES JR., Western High School.



# African Daughter "Visits the Folks" After 300 Years

Reviewed by Etta Moten

**Africa: Land of My Fathers**, by Era Bell Thompson (Doubleday, 281 pp., \$3.75)

is the vivid if oft-times witty, sometimes moving, always honest, unusually accurate account of experiences and reactions of an American Negro journalist. An editor of *Ebony* Magazine, Era Bell Thompson traveled alone through the continent of Africa.

Starting just under the hudge on the west coast, her first stop was in Liberia, the little republic which is a miniature U. S. A. in many ways. Miss Thompson visited British Gold Coast, Nigeria, Belgian Congo, French Cameroons, South Africa, Central Africa, Ethiopia and Egypt.

In Monrovia she found friends and a home with Griff Davis, the *Ebony* and *Life* photographer, and his wife. She visited the Executive Mansion and interviewed the wealthy, witty and wise President W. V. S. Tubman. She was wined and dined by the elite of the capital city and its environs.

As cordial as her reception had been in Liberia, it was quite as cold in Gold Coast. She was rebuffed by one of her African "brothers" and treated like a "stepchild" in Accra. Indeed, she was to have more than one occasion to feel like this on her journey through the land of her fathers. One in South Africa (24 hours to leave) and once in Zanzibar where she was held in technical custody as "an undesirable."

If being rebuffed by an underling at customs in Accra ruffled her feelings, Miss Thompson must have been proud of her race and her profession when the African Prime Minister Kwame Nkrumah called in person to fetch her to his home. She had promised to help him to outline his autobiography which he is writing. This she did. Moreover, the King of the Ashantis, reputed to be the riches in all Africa, made her welcome to his palace in Kumasi some 175 miles into gold-filled, timber-laden interior of Gold Coast. Upon her departure, he took her hands in his and promised "I'll never forget you." This pleased her because he had small liking for American journalists except for Claude Barnett and his wife, Etta Moten, who had visited some five years before.

In Nigeria, Miss Thompson visited the University at Ibadan and the Markets of Lagos. In the Belgian Congo she talked with "Uncle Toms" who said "everything is fine," as well as with ten government clerks who came by night to a villager's home to ask questions and to air their grievances.

She visited Watutsies in the highlands of "King Solomon's Mines" movie fame. She met and dined with two brothers who rule the giant proud people and live in luxury as millionaires; moreover, they admit that they feel superior to American blacks as to the Belgian whites.

She mixed with the races of mankind and flies of all kinds which have come to live with and by each other in Ethiopia where the Lion of Judah is emperor.

In Kenya she was not sure who was or was not a Mau Mau. In Nairobi she had hotel and vita trouble, but a white African *Time*-*Life* reporter swore that he would tell the world if they didn't treat her right.

"Yes," said Miss Thompson, "I traversed the length and breadth of Africa seeking a bond between the American Negro and his African brother, but the African, I found, knows even less about us than we do about him. And small wonder."

"We are not allowed to learn." "We make nothing from our crops."

"We have no voice as to how things with us should be."

"We cannot even pray as we want, but must pray only in church. . . Have our brothers in America forgotten us, too?"

Ira Bell Thompson's answers to these questions (which were asked by the committee of ten which came by night to the villager's home in the Congo) was a promise.

"I told them we cannot forget those who do not know. I told them that I would tell America what they said; I would give their message to my country."

Miss Thompson, the reporter, got her story (*Ebony* Magazine). Miss Thompson, the writer (American daughter) told it exceedingly well. She has kept her promise to her "kinfolks" in *Africa: Land of My Fathers*.

## Chicago Literary World Honors Era Bell Thompson

By MATTIE SMITH COLIN  
CHICAGO.—(ANP)—Book publishers, critics, authors, actors, actresses, civic leaders and Chicago's socially elite gathered recently at Johnson Publishing Co. as guests of publisher John H. Johnson to pay tribute to author-ess Era Bell Thompson.

Miss Thompson has traveled extensively throughout Africa and has completed her latest book, entitled "Africa, Land of My Fathers." *Int. 10-9-54*

The home service department of *Ebony*, headed by Mrs. Freida DeKnight, was in charge of refreshments and carried out the food service in an unusual tropical setting, with an African motif centerpiece.

Gracing this elaborately furnished table were replicas of trees, flowers, jungle plants, monkeys, tigers, lions and other objects found in the jungle.

Cannibal and East Indian hors d'oeuvres and cheese spreads were labeled uniquely with Clam spread Era Bell; *Africa, Land of My Fathers* cocktail hot dogs; Claude and Etta Barnett, President and Mrs. William V. S. Tubman, Mau Mau balls; and many, many more with names of the different African chieftains.

Glimpsed in the huge throng were Emmett Dedmon, *Chicago Daily News*; Fannie Butcher, *Chicago Tribune*; Netta Cooper, Max Segiel, Ben Kartman and Fletcher Marting, all of *Chicago Sun-Times*; Fred Babcock, *Chicago Tribune*; Ralph Newman and Bea Vedel, University of Chicago; Hinz Werner, Dean Vittum, Lucille Pennell, Gwendolyn Brooks, Margaret Danner Cunningham, Jean Holtz, Margaret Goss, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Sengstacke, Atty. Earl Dickerson, Mr. and Mrs. Roi Ottley Cleo Myles, Mrs. Lena Compton and Theodore Charles Stone.

Mrs. Frances Matlock, Ald. Robert Merriam, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Lowe, Albert Dekker, Ruth Atwater, Atty. and Mrs. Sylvester White, Mrs. Bessie Grant, Mrs. Hazel Renfro, Mr. and Mrs. Baxter Collier, Mrs. Betty Lightsey,

Mrs. Henrietta McMillion, Kit Baldwin, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Burns, Mrs. John H. Johnson, Mrs. Gertrude Williams, Mrs. Ruth Hobbs McCoy, Vincent Tubbs, Edward Clayton, Ben Byrd, Basil Phillips, Velma Morris, Louis Caldwell, Mr. and Mrs. Julian Black, Mrs. Mattie Jackson, Mrs. Richard Cooper, Mrs. Hennie Mae Cisco, Theodore Coleman, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Nesbitt, Sydney Williams, Truman K. Gibson sr., Mrs. Truman K. Gibson jr., Mrs. Edward Beasley, Mrs. Awilda Myles, Atty. Jesse Mann, eGorge McCray, Es-sie Davis, Miss Olive Diggs, Dr. and Mrs. Albert Spaulding, Mr. and Mrs. William Lawson, George Bynum, Marshall Bynum, and Commissioner and Mrs. Edward M. Sneed.

## BOOK REVIEWS

Reviewed by  
GERTRUDE MARTIN  
*Chicago, Ill.*

"Africa: Land of My Fathers" by Era Bell Thompson offers an interesting contrast to Richard Wright's "Black Power" (reviewed here last week). Both books about present-day Africa. Miss Thompson visited eighteen countries in Africa and covered over 12,000 miles; Mr. Wright continued his visit to one, the Gold Coast, where he was able to study conditions extensively. Miss Thompson also visited the Gold Coast for a few days and helped its Prime Minister, Nkrumah, to organize a book he is writing. She was representing *Ebony* of which she is an editor.

The author travelled for three months over Africa and the experiences she had were as interesting as the observations she made of the people and places she visited. Starting in Liberia she next visited the Gold Coast, then Nigeria and the Belgian Congo.

From that point on she encountered one difficulty after another, ranging from refusal of entry in Zanzibar, to extreme rudeness in other places where she was accommodated. In between was a wierd succession of discriminations

and rebuffs. Miss Thompson seems to have weathered her experiences with great good humor and aplomb. It took considerable of each to go so rapidly from one disheartening incident to the next.

Even in Laurence Marques under Portuguese rule and a supposedly liberal racial policy Miss Thompson was refused at several hotels. Always in airplanes there was relief from discrimination and a measure of freedom that the ground often did not afford. Miss Thompson was returning to Africa as the land of her fathers but she found that most Africans knew little of Americans. Those who did blame American Negroes for not coming to help their brethren. In the end despite the kinship she felt Miss Thompson was convinced that Africa was not her home. *Int. 10-16-54*

"Africa: Land of My Fathers" is an interesting travelogue written by a sympathetic observer. As we indicated above it is not as perceptive as Mr. Wright's book but it was not intended to be. It give a fleeting look at many countries and a depressing idea of what goes on in Africa. Miss Thompson is a skillful writer and her book is always interesting.

"Africa: Land of My Fathers," by Era Bell Thompson; Doubleday and Company; 575 Madison ave.; New York 22, N. Y.; 1954; \$3.75.



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Gann, \$3). An account of rais-  
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JONATHAN BLAKE Bounty Lands  
Lawyer, by William Donghue  
Ellis ~~Woods~~, \$4.95. A novel  
about America's frontier in  
1820.  
LIBERIAN INTERLUDE, by Lawrence  
McCaughrey (Pageant, \$2.50).  
A novel.  
by Fred

## LIBERIAN INTERLUDE



## Writes on Africa

NEW YORK — Liberia has been the subject of a newly-published book by a man who spent some 50 years in Africa as a missionary of the Methodist Church.

He is Dr. Frederick A. Price, now Liberian Consul-General in the U.S.A. who gives good advice to foreign nations on how to get along in Africa.

**'LIBERIAN ODYSSEY'**

The author of "Liberian Odyssey," Dr. Frederick A. Price, has been Liberian Consul-General to the United States for the past 10 years. Prior to his appointment he served for 40 years as a missionary in Liberia beginning in 1904, when he went out as a young man. There his fiancée came a year later and they were married and together served the Liberian people in Cape Palmas.

Mr. Price tells in detail the problems a missionary faced in those days, the difficulty in transportation from one mission to another, the distrust of the natives, the poverty and disease, and the hard work that was always necessary. A work requiring great physical and spiritual fortitude because there were the suspicions and fetishes of the people to combat as well as the physical ills.

In conclusion the author points to some of the needs of Liberia today in both its civil and church life. There still remains much to be done and its people must learn self-reliance, he believes. His book is a simply told story of one man's long devotion and service to a people. There is a large number of photographs included of African scenes and people as well as of the various church men and women with whom the author was associated.

"Liberian Odyssey," by Frederick A. Price; The Pageant Press; 130 W. 42nd st.; New York 36, N. Y.; 1954; Deluxe boxed edition, \$7.50.

BOOK  
REVIEWS

by

GERTRUDE MARTIN

*Suspender*

Two recent autobiographies of men who devoted much of their lives to religious work have recently been published. "People's Padre," by Emmett McLoughlin, is the story of a Catholic priest who left his church; the other is called "Liberian Odyssey," and tells of the forty year service of its author, F. A. Price, in Liberia.

Mr. McLoughlin, the son of devout Irish Catholics, traces his life from early seminary days, through his ordination, and then to his new life as a priest in Phoenix. The parish to which he was assigned was on the south side of the city, a slum in need of housing, medical care and understanding. Through Father McLoughlin's efforts a 232-bed interracial hospital, St. Monica's, was built, and he became its superintendent. He also served as chairman of the Phoenix housing Authority and as secretary of the State Board of Health. He became well known for his efforts in behalf of Negroes and Spanish-Americans.

In time his superiors in the church accused Father McLoughlin of neglect of his spiritual duties for his more "worldly" hospital work. He was ordered to resign as superintendent and stand ready for reappointment elsewhere. After much soul-searching he decided to resign from the Catholic priesthood in 1948, a step that was a logical development from his growing distrust of Catholic dogma and authoritarianism.

His action brought great disapproval from other churchmen and of his own family. He later married and his life to the present he describes as very satisfying and full. He is still superintendent of St. Monica's.

"People's Padre" will meet with

mixed reactions; devout Catholics will certainly find much in it that will be objectionable. The average reader, though not necessarily agreeing with all of the author's statements, will find his book an interesting chronicle of a priest's training and life. Mr. McLoughlin contends that a considerable number of priests turn their back on the church, but that most, unlike himself, try to live anonymous lives to escape the censure of the church.

"People's Padre," by Emmett McLoughlin; The Beacon Press; 25 Beacon street, Boston 8, Mass.; 1954; \$3.95.

**'LIBERIAN ODYSSEY'**

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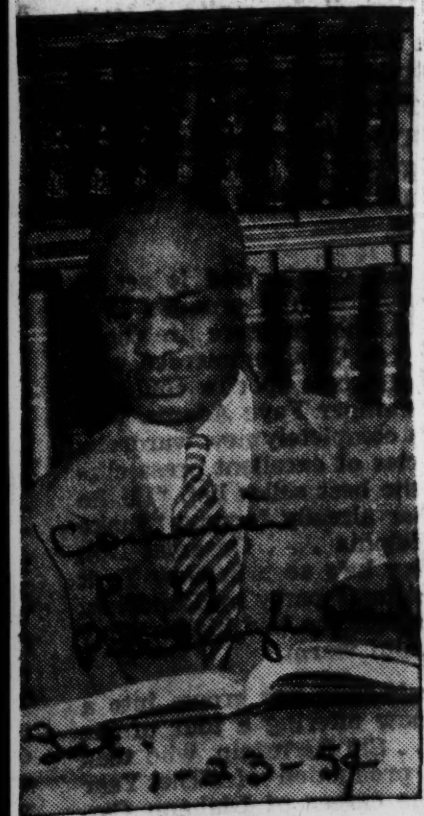
## Adjudged Poet Laureate

# Langston U. Prof Honored for Epic Of Liberia Poem

WASHINGTON — Melvin B. Tolson, professor of creative literature at Langston University and poet laureate of Liberia, was guest of honor at a literary premiere celebrating the publication of his book, "Libretto for the Republic of Liberia," here at the Liberian Embassy last week.

The volume, an epic commemorating the 100th year of the founding of the Republic of Liberia, was occasioned by Professor Tolson's appointment as poet-laureate for the Liberian Centennial.

The volume has been recommended to the Pulitzer Prize Committee, according to an announcement from the office of Jacob Steinberg, managing editor of Twayne Publishers, Inc.



M. B. TOLSON

... Liberia's poet laureate

**CULTURAL DIPLOMATS** of the sixty United Nations, along with presidents and English scholars from George Washington, the American, Howard and Catholic universities gathered at the Embassy to pay tribute to Tolson.

Allen Tate, professor of poetry at the University of Minnesota, pointed out in the preface of the volume: "There is a real gift of language, a profound historical sense, and a first-rate intelligence at work in this poem from first to last . . . For the first time, it seems to me, a Negro poet has assimilated completely the full poetic language of his time and, by implication, the language of the Anglo-American poetic tradition."

Tolson is at present professor of creative literature at Langston University, Langston, Okla., where he directs the Dust Bowl Theatre.

He was educated at Fisk, Lincoln and Columbia universities. The poet was granted fellowship in literature by the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and the Rockefeller Foundation.

Tolson's "Dark Symphony" won the national poetry contest conducted by the American Negro Exposition in Chicago and in 1952 Poetry magazine gave him the Bess Hokin Award for a long psychological poem called "E. and O. E."

The author dramatized Walter White's novel, "The Fire in the Flint," and staged it at the NAACP convention in Oklahoma City before an audience of 5,000.

## LIBRETTO FOR THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

## On Vistas Undreamt

LIBRETTO FOR THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA. By M. B. Tolson. Unpagged. New York: Twayne Publishers. \$2.75.

By SELDEN RODMAN

It is a reflection on so-called "white" culture that up to now "Negro poetry" in English has had to be considered as such and handled with special care to avoid giving offense. Praised for its moral intentions and excused for its formal shortcomings, it has generally been treated as a literary poor relation. The fact of the matter is that most of this poetry has been second-rate, and that critics, partaking of the general responsibility for the Negro's carelessness to take the "Negro problem" in his stride, have hesitated to say so. The Negro poet's attitude of resigned pathos was followed by one of tragic aggressiveness, and both, as Allen Tate says in his preface to "Libretto for the Republic of Liberia," limited him "to a provincial mediocrity in which feelings about one's difficulties become more important than poetry itself."

The publication of this extraordinary poem by M. B. Tolson, who was born in Moberly, Mo., and is now Professor of Creative Literature at Langston University in Oklahoma, bids fair to put an end to all that. Commissioned by the Liberian Centennial and International Exposition, it is not only by all odds the most considerable poem so far written by an American Negro, but a work of poetic synthesis in the symbolic vein altogether worthy to be classed in the company of such poems as "The Wasteland," "The Bridge" and "Fater-son." It is divided into eight sections and each section comments obliquely on the historic destiny of the Negro race in such a way as to make the over-all effect a statement on the destiny of the human race as a whole.

THE poem alternates between lyric passages as subtle as they are incisive:

*A fabulous mosaic log,  
the Bola boa lies*

*gorged to the hinges of his  
jaws,  
eyeless, yet with eyes . . .*

*The beaked and pouched assassin sags  
on to his corsair rock,  
and from his talons swim the  
blood-  
red feathers of a cock . . .*

—and stanzas of dithyrambic elation or satire as memorable for their rhetoric as similar passages in Dryden or Edith Sitwell:

*Between Yesterday's wills of  
Tanaka, between  
golden goblet and truckling  
trull  
and the ires  
of rivers red with the reflexes  
of fires,  
the ferris wheel  
of race, of caste, of class  
dumped and alped cadavers till  
the ground  
fogged the Pleiades with Gila  
rot: Today the mass,  
the Beast with a Maginot Line  
in its Brain,  
the staircase Avengers of  
base alloy,  
the vile canaille — Gorii — the  
Bastard-rasse,  
the uomo qualyque, the hoi  
barbaroi,  
the raya in the Oeil de  
Boeuf,  
the vsehelovek, the descamina-  
dos, the hoi polloi,  
the Raw from the Coliseum  
of the Cooked,  
unparadised nobodies with maps  
of Nowhere  
ride the merry-go-round!  
Selah!*

Mr. Tate compares Mr. Tolson's style to that of the late Hart Crane, and the poem is indeed comparable to "The Bridge" for the ambition with which it seeks to animate an idea; but the method seems to me much more like that employed in "The Wasteland." The stanzas of the later sections are composed of quotations, proverbs, invocations and clichés rendered in the languages from which they are lifted and explicated (when it suits the author's fancy) in voluminous, pedantic notes.

THE felicities of language, when they occur, are not as with Crane inspired by a Dionysiac frenzy, but as with Eliot intellectually contrived. "Golden joys to fat the shark" has the Eliot ring. "In brain-sick lands, the pearls too rich for swine" is a line Eliot surely would have been proud to have written. And such a passage as "God saves the black/man's soul but not his buttocks from the white man's lash. . . . The white man solves/between white sheets his black/problem"—is in the same vein of mordant wit as Eliot's "Hippopotamus."

By the same token Tolson's weaknesses are the weaknesses one encounters in "The Wasteland." At Tolson's worst these are magnified into balderdash:

*The Höhere of Gaea's children  
is beyond the dérèglement de  
tous les sens, is beyond  
gold fished from cesspools,  
the galerie des rois,  
the seeking of cows, apartheid,  
Sisyphus' despond,  
the llande intire of itselfe with  
die Schweine in mud*

This kind of writing becomes at its best academic and at its worst intellectual exhibitionism, throwing at the reader undigested scraps of everything from Bantu to Esperanto in unrelaxed cacophony. Eliot's taste was equal to giving the results of such a method dignity; Tolson's taste is much more uneven. And when it errs, one is reminded of Picasso's dictum: "To search means nothing; to find is everything."

At his best, Tolson finds a great deal. His poem opens vistas undreamt of by the English-speaking poets of his race and by few poets of other races.

Mr. Rodman has edited "100 Modern Poems" and other anthologies.



# The Story of the Great Boer Trek

LOCUSTS AND WILD HONEY. By Joyce Collin-Smith. 316 pp. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. \$3.95.

*Review*  
**T**HIS novel about the Great Trek is a dark horse in the 1954 South African literary sweepstakes, which has already drawn the biggest field in years. The author, a young English-woman, paid a long visit to South Africa some years ago and appears to have fallen completely under its spell. (As a matter of fact, most writers visiting South Africa seem to feel an irresistible urge to open their portables and start typing. It's that kind of country.)

And "Locusts and Wild Honey" is that kind of book, too. From its pages it is possible to deduce something of the itinerary the author must have followed on her tour—Cape Town through Paarl and the Hex River Valley to the north, then on to Delagoa Bay in Mozambique and the Zimbabwe Ruins in Rhodesia. This is a picturesque journey indeed, typical of the majesty and mystery of Africa, and one that would provide any novelist with as rich a scenic background as she could desire.

*P-27*  
**S**O our story begins at Cape Town, circa 1825. The narrator is Vincent Van Reenen, whose father had emigrated from Holland to the Cape, just about the time the Boers' dislike of British rule began prompting them to trek off into the unknown. This section of the story has the family settled on a farm in the Hex River Valley, growing grapes and adding (through Uncle Johannes and brother Wilhelm) to the half-caste population of the district.

*Review*  
Then the trekkers start coming through and Vincent joins them, accompanied by his Uncle Johannes and his colored cousin, Rudolph. The author now goes the whole hog and telescopes pretty nearly all of the Great Trek into her narrative.

Vincent's journeys take him right across the hinterland of southern Africa as far as the Portuguese colony at Delagoa Bay. Then (although the Boers did not know the place at that

time) he visits the famed ruins of Zimbabwe in southern Rhodesia. He also hears rumors of diamonds on the Orange River, although decades were to pass before they were actually discovered.

*June 5-16-54*  
Still, this is a novel and not history, and one must not measure these fictional incidents with too rigorous a yardstick. Nor can one blame Miss Collin-Smith for floundering in the deep waters of Afrikaans spelling and nomenclature. What matters for the reader is whether the story lives up to the promise of its flamboyant jacket. The answer is Yes. This is a technicolor romance with action, passion, color and a truly exotic setting. But as serious fiction this dark horse is an also ran. JOHN BARKHAM.





The same advice goes for MADAMI (Prentice-Hall, 303 pp. \$3.75), which Anne Eisner Putnam wrote with Allan Keller's advice and assistance. If this Manhattan artist could leave her metropolitan studio to live for years that still stretch into the future with the Congo pygmies, one would guess any Junior Leaguer could do the same, given the same basic incentive of marriage to an anthropologist in the Belgian colonial service. Almost anyone who has been in high school knows about the pygmies, the butt of an evolutionary joke that made this miniature race live in an environment of elephants, leopards and gorillas. Now Mrs. Putnam gives these people a human stature as large, and much more agreeable, as any of Africa's natives, with adequate attention, too, to the beauties and terrors of jungle living.



Anne Eisner Putnam tells about her pigmy friends in the book "Madami," reviewed in another column.



new English version by Dudley Fitts (Harcourt, Brace, \$3.50).  
 MAU MAU and the Kikuyu, by L. S. S. Leakey (John Day, \$2.50). Summary of the African terrorist movement.  
 MILWAUKEE'S MIRACLE BRAVES, by Tom [unclear] and others (A. S. Barnes, \$3). History of the baseball team.  
 NIPPER'S UNLIMATED Baby-Sitter's Reveries, by Sea Dragin (Exposition, \$2).  
 PERDU, by Paride Rombo (Harper, \$75). Novel about a boy's search for a father who has never been found.  
 TAHITIAN HOLIDAY, by David Huntington (Holt, \$4.95). Portrait of the island.

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HOLD CLOSE THE DAY, by Isabel Black (Crown, \$3). Novel about a Brooklyn family.  
 JAPANESE MASTERS OF THE COLOUR Pencil. A Great Heritage of Oriental Art, by L. Hillier (Phaidon, Garden City Books, \$1.50). A study with today three illustrations in color and monochrome.  
 MINE EYES HAVE SEEN THE GLORY: The Story of a Virginia Lady, Mary Berkeley Minor Blackford, 1802-1895, Who Taught Her Sons to Hate Slavery and to Love the Union, by L. Minor Blackford (Harvard Univer-

MINE EYES HAVE SEEN THE GLORY:  
 The Story of a Virginia lady, ....



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MINORITIES AND THE AMERICAN PROMISE. THE CONFLICT OF  
PRINCIPLE AND PRACTICE

*already have*  
MINORITIES AND THE AMERICAN  
PROMISE. THE CONFLICT OF  
PRINCIPLE AND PRACTICE. By  
Stewart G. Cole and Mildred Wiese  
Cole. Harper. \$4.50. This tenth volume  
in a series sponsored by the Bureau for  
Intercultural Education, a study of the  
structure of American society, comple-  
ments Dr. Handlin's work and arrives  
at similar conclusions. Its final chapter,  
"Americans and Their World Neigh-  
bors," discusses problems of intercul-  
tural relations on a global scale.

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MINORITIES AND THE AMERICAN PROMISE: THE CONFLICT OF PRINCIPLE AND  
PRACTICE

WOMEN, by Jane Kirk (Har-  
per, \$3).  
MALE AGAINST NATURE: Tales of  
Adventure and Exploration,  
collected and edited by Giffles  
Neider (Harper, \$5). Forty-  
seven tales.  
MINORITIES AND THE AMERICAN  
PROMISE: The Conflict of Prin-  
ciple and Practice, by Stewart  
G. Cole and Mildred Wiese  
Cole, foreword by William  
Heard Kilpatrick (Harper,  
\$4.50).



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MY LIFE IN THE BUSH OF GHOSTS

NOVEL about the  
green books"  
MANNERS AND MORALS OF THE  
Press, by Sister Mary Pa-  
trice Mahan (Bookman Asso-  
ciates, \$3.75).

MY LIFE IN THE BUSH OF GHOSTS,  
by Amos Tutuola (Grove Press,  
\$3.50). Novel about Africa.

NO GOLD FOOTBALLS: A Study of  
the Physical Education Pro-  
gram at Phillips Exeter Acad-  
emy, by Warren N. Kellogg  
(Twayne Publishers, \$2.50).

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## EDUCATION HELD JOB ADVANCE AID

*James F. Langston*  
Study at Birmingham In-  
dicates Negro Progress

*W. J. F. 21-31*  
WASHINGTON, April 20 (AP)—The committee of the south of the National Planning Association (NPA) reported Monday that the greatest hope for expanding Negro job opportunities in the Birmingham, Ala., area lies in improved education.

*P. 13*  
"As his general level of understanding is raised," the report stated, "he will increasingly be in a position to exploit more fully the training opportunities which are available."

*W. J. F. 21-31*  
To a considerable extent, the report continued, the "enlargement of both his training and employment opportunities will depend upon the future social and economic climate within which he works and lives."

Negroes, the report stated, make up 37 per cent of the area's population of 555,800 — "probably a greater proportion than is the case for any city of comparable size in the nation."

The report on "Negro Employment in the Birmingham Metropolitan Area," prepared by Langston T. Hawley, professor of management, University of Alabama, is the third in a series of selected studies of Negro employment in the south.

In releasing the report, R. R. Gilbert, Dallas, Tex., acting chairman of the committee pointed out that "the utilization of human resources in a large industrial center is one of the most important aspects of southern development."

Where Negroes constitute a large proportion of the population, as they do in the Birmingham area, he said, "it seems evident that the level of economic development the area can attain will depend in part on how successfully the Negro worker is integrated into its economy."

He said that the aim of the series of case studies is not to make any recommendations, but rather to give an objective report on the

relationships of Negro and white workers and any changes that appear to be taking place in employment practices.

Forty-three Birmingham firms were studied in making the report. They represented general manufacturing, primary metals, mining, building construction, transportation and public utilities. They employ 59,263 workers, about 36 per cent of whom are Negroes, and account for approximately 29 per cent of all employment in the Birmingham area.

The findings were based upon some 70 interviews—supplemented by statistical data—with employers, union officials, Negro and white educators and other officials.

Lack of education and training was emphasized by both employers and union officials as one of the chief factors limiting job opportunities for Negroes.

### Differentials Ended

Wage progress has been the chief gain in the employment status of the Negro since 1939, the report declared. Entrance rates for common labor, except in the lumber industry, have risen by more than the increase in the cost of living. Wage differentials based on color were found to have been eliminated in the firms surveyed either through managerial decision or collective bargaining.

Other reports on Negro employment to be issued this spring, include surveys at two plants in Little Rock, Ark., and three in New Orleans, and an area study of Chattanooga, Tenn.



# New Cracks Reported In Segregation on Job

Washington, May 23 (UP)—A private nonprofit, nonpolitical research organization today disclosed new cracks in the wall of Negro segregation in Southern industries.

The group reported that Negro workers have seized their new opportunities and performed their better jobs satisfactorily.

The research organization, the National Planning Association, noted that Southern employers have made "significant departures from traditional biracial employment practices."

The N.P.A.'s Special Committee of The South based its findings on a close study of five Southern companies—three in New Orleans and two in Little Rock.

The group cautioned that its findings were of necessity very limited and did not necessarily reflect over-all labor conditions in the South.

## Lack of Friction Stressed

But the committee, composed of 81 leaders in the South's agriculture, business, industry, labor, press, and government, said its report indicates what is possible in the way of biracial employment patterns and relations in the South.

It emphasized that in none of the five companies have any of the increased opportunities for Negroes caused friction with white workers.

The Negro workers in the five companies received equal pay with the white workers in the plants, the committee said.

None of the Negroes were given supervisory or clerical work and none worked side by side at the same jobs with whites. But the two races intermingle constantly in the course of their work and intermingle without unpleasant incidents, it said.

## Negroes Better Educated

The report noted that the few attempts to promote Negroes to supervisory posts failed, "apparently because the workers did not like to work under the super-

vision of members of their own race."

The committee said the Negro women averaged two years more education than white women handling the same jobs—70 per cent of the Negroes had completed high school and 20 per cent had been to college—but that there was no significant correlation between educational training and efficiency or earnings.

It quoted the manager of one of the plants as saying the Negro and white women were about equally capable of handling the same work if it was the same task for a long period. He said, however, that Negro women showed less speed in adapting themselves to new routines.

## Some Negroes Earn More

One company has an incentive system and there some Negro workers earned more than whites doing the same work. Negroes generally, however, earned less because the higher paying jobs were given predominantly to whites.

At another concern, unionization has had far-reaching effects in modifying prewar promotion and layoff policies, in raising Negroes' eligibility for better jobs, and in altering the status of Negroes as employees, the report said. The union buttressed these changes with a no-discrimination clause in its contract with the company, it said.

But in no cases, the report said, have Negroes supervised white workers.

"Where whites and Negroes worked in the same groups," it said, "Negroes were automatically barred from any job that entailed even the smallest degree of delegated authority or direction."



## Langston Hughes Wins Book Award

NEW YORK — Lucky Langston Hughes, Chicago Defender columnist, has been awarded one of the Anisfield-Wolf prizes for his book, "Simple Takes A Wife." In addition, the award carries a sizable monetary prize. "Simple" is Hughes' basic editorial character in the Chicago Defender.

## Langston Hughes Gets Book Award

NEW YORK — This year's Anisfield-Wolf Award for the novel contributing most to the field of race relations has been won by Langston Hughes' "SIMPLE TAKES A WIFE," it was announced today by The Saturday Review of Literature. The award, which carries a sizeable monetary prize, has been won in past years by John Hersey and Lillian Smith, among others.

Jesse B. Simple ("Simple" to his friends in Harlem), the hero of "SIMPLE TAKES A WIFE," is a character Hughes created for his column in The Chicago Defender, and is also the protagonist of an earlier book, "SIMPLE SPEAKS HIS MIND." Both books are published by Simon and Schuster.

Larry Vinick

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## SIMPLE TAKES A WIFE

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# The New York Times Book Review

AUGUST 8, 1954

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SECTION 7

## DAYS OF AGONY, MINUTES OF FUN

TELL FREEDOM: Memories of Africa. By Peter Abrahams. 370 pp. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. \$4.

By JAMES STERN

SUCH has been the spate of books coming out of South Africa in recent years, it must by now be common knowledge that the population of that tragic land is divided loosely into three groups: White, Colored and Black (or Native). Peter Abrahams, the poet and author of several novels, is colored. He was born in 1919 in a Johannesburg slum. His father was an Ethiopian; his mother, whose first husband had been a Cape Malay, was colored—half native, half European. While Peter was still very small his father died, and he was taken away from his mother, aunt, brother and sisters to live with a poverty-stricken couple whom he learned to call Uncle and Aunt.

It is here, in a "location" outside a Boer village, that the story of the first twenty-two years of Peter Abrahams' life begins. It is here that he learned what it is to be colored in South Africa, what it's like to be beaten unconscious by white boys, only to be beaten again the same evening by his "uncle" on orders from a white man—with the white boys looking on "while the thong came down on my back again and again." That night Peter slept on a bed for the first and last time on the location, his bleeding body in the arms of his grief-stricken "aunt," in the only bed the couple possessed. Then Peter's little sister died, which made it possible for him to return to his home in the slum.

The above paragraphs may suggest that "Tell Freedom" is one long story of horror. It isn't. Amidst all the brutality, the inhumanity, there are good people and of all colors. There is Peter's magnificent mother, and there is the Jewish girl who read to the

illiterate boy the story of Othello, which changed his whole outlook on life and made him determined to go to school so that he might learn and one day write stories, too.

SOMEWHERE in the middle of this volume—by which time Peter has discovered Keats and Shakespeare, whose works inspire in him a passionate desire to escape to England—he finds in a library a copy of "The Souls of Black Folk" by W. E. B. Du Bois. To the African Negro boy the American Negro's book is a revelation. "Du Bois," he says, "might have been writing about my land and people. \* \* \*

*Mr. Stern is a critic and writer of fiction who formerly lived in Africa and now lives in this country. His most recent volume, "The Man Who Was Loved," contains several stories with an African setting.*

The only difference was that there was no laughter in this book. Here, in our land, in the midst of our miseries, we had moments of laughter." They certainly had—as have all Negroes everywhere.

One of these "moments," taking place when Peter, his sister and two other children kneel to pray before going to sleep, is so hilarious and somehow so tragic that one finds oneself bursting into laughter with a lump in one's throat. There is simplicity, understatement, lack of bitterness, and, above all, profound compassion in the art of Peter Abrahams.

Had it not been for the Jewish girl and Peter's own determination, his knowledge of the outside world might have been confined, as in the vast majority of his contemporaries, to what he saw in the local movie house. There, he says, "we drew our picture of the world of white folk. Our morals were fashioned there. \* \* \* Once a [local] murder was modeled on a murder we

A South African Novelist Scrupulously Puts Down the Travails of His Boyhood and Youth



Peter Abrahams.



saw on the screen. \* \* \* There was a boy who became Douglas Fairbanks. He drowned in one of the mine dams, trying to get into the pipe that pumped the water up from the bowels of the earth."

When Peter was 10 years old, he was held up on the street by a dagga-smoker and forced into the life of begging for his "boss," the dope addict. In the following year he was working nineteen hours out of the twenty-four in a hotel for £1 a month. At the end of two weeks his sister stopped him; she could see that he would not survive the month. When Peter asked to be paid for the work he had done, he didn't get a penny. Instead, from the Black with whom he worked, he got some idea how fortunate he was to have been born colored, for wherever the South African native goes he has to carry "passes."

Once, while Peter and Anne, his first girl friend, were sitting in a "non-European" tearoom, three policemen walked in. "Natives, get your passes ready!" one of them snapped. A hush fell over the room. "Let's go," said Anne. And Peter "followed Anne out, past the policemen at the door. We were colored and therefore free of the purely physical impact of this humiliation."

**P**ETER'S idyllic love affair with Anne was short-lived, for miraculously, while working in the office of the black section of the Boy Scout movement, he was offered a chance to attend Grace Dieu Teachers College near Pietersburg. Here, in three Anglican priests, Peter met the first white men whose color he forgot, men of God who "made Christianity a living reality" for him—but only for so long as he was there. For outside this peaceful valley, in the world of Johannesburg and Cape Town, he was disillusioned by so-called Christians—as he later was by those who dubbed themselves Communists and Marxists, who tried to use him for their own political purposes.

In his native land there was nothing left for Peter Abrahams. As a grown man he had but one passion, that which had been planted in him as a boy by Keats and Shakespeare: to escape to England. "I would go there," he says of himself at the age of 10, "because the dead men who called were, for me, more alive than the most vitally living."

How Peter managed to get there is his own dramatic story. What he took with him, what allowed him not to fear

for his future, was the talent that went to make this moving and beautiful book, a talent shaped by one of the three priests who, "whenever I used big words or made clumsy and almost meaningless sentences, sent me to the Bible: 'Read the Bible if you want to see how good English should be written.'"

"I read the Bible," says Peter Abrahams, "and I saw."

In "Tell Freedom" there is not one big word, not one clumsy sentence.



**TELL FREEDOM**, By Peter Abrahams. Alfred A. Knopf, Publisher, 501 Madison Ave., New York. 370 pp. \$4.00.

The idyllic life of a carefree boy did not last long for Peter Abrahams. The security he had known with his Ethiopian father and his "Cape coloured" mother was dissipated in the blast of his father's untimely death.

The family of four children, of whom Peter was the youngest, broke up. Peter was sent to live with a childless African couple at Elsburg, where all the natives worked at subsistence levels for the white farmers.

Here, with security gone, Peter began to learn some tragic truths. For daring to defend himself against a bigger white boy, Peter was beaten by his black guardian at the direction of a white man.



Mr. Redding

*But this* episode, related with forceful simplicity, did not blind young Abrahams to magnificence and beauty. His Aunt Liza was a noble woman, and he knew it.

His Uncle Sammy was a tragic man, and Peter knew this also. At Elsburg he met Joseph, a Zulu, and the pages devoted to their friendship sing with love and beauty.

Peter Abrahams was born a poet. That is to say, he had more need for—and less skill at acquiring emotional defenses than most. He was wide open to influences that only with luck would not destroy him.

**REJOINING HIS** family back in Johannesburg location, he became a gang member, learning to prey on the unwary and to steal and lie with the best of them.

For a while, in pre-adolescence, he fagged for a dope-fiend who forced him to beg. Still later, working at a disreputable hotel, he began to learn about life.

But his luck held. He retained his innocence and his sense of the wonder of life. "I opened my arms wide. And it was as if I embraced all the land I looked upon, and all the people who lived in the land. An irrepressible shout swelled up in me and I let it out with all the power of my lungs..."

**THESE QUALITIES** of unembittered love, of innocence and of wonder prompted the sympathy of a young Jewish woman who read him Lamb's *Tales From Shakespeare* and encouraged him to go to school.

These qualities, which he did not know he had, gave his discovery of *The Souls of Black Folk* (DuBois), *Along This Way* (Johnson), *The Black Christ* (Cullen), and *The New*

# Book Review

By SAUNDERS REDDING

Negro (Locke) "the impact of a revelation."

"For all the thousands of miles," Abrahams writes, "for all the ocean, between the land and people of whom he wrote and my land, DuBois might have been writing about my land and people."

"The mood and feeling he described were as those among whom I lived. DuBois had given me a key to the understanding of my world. The Colored man is not free..."

**PETER ABRAHAMS** book is the story of one man's quest for freedom. If the details of that story are sometimes ugly and tragic and if the quest led him away from formal Christianity to Marxism, Abrahams never once lost his innocent faith in humanity.

It was a faith fostered not only by black but by white, and not only by books but by men, and not only by the beauties of nature but by the beauties of love.

*Tell Freedom* is a moving book, written with brilliant simplicity.



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## Funeral Directors Book To Be Published

CHICAGO. (AP) — The National Green Book of Funeral Directors and Embalmers for 1954-55 will be published April 1, Robert H. Miller, funeral director and general secretary of the National Funeral Directors Association, announced last week.

Commenting on the purpose of the book, Miller said in part:

"The phenomenal growth of our business and the desire of every funeral director to give the highest quality of service have created the need for a complete and authentic directory of the more than 3,000 funeral directors and embalmers across the nation."

Miller also said that every funeral home will be listed in the directory without charge. He urged those who have not already been contacted to send their firm name and address to the National Green Book of Funeral Directors and Embalmers, 730 E. 63rd St., Chicago 37, Ill.

THE NATIONAL GREEN BOOK OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND EMBALMERS, 1954-55



# As the North Yielded

THE NEGRO IN AMERICAN LIFE AND THOUGHT. THE NADIR: 1877-1901. By Rayford W. Logan. 384 pp. New York: The Dial Press. \$5.

By BELL I. WILEY

COMING when nation-wide discussion of the future of legal segregation is at a peak, this timely book explores intensively the period when segregation, after an era of progress and promise in racial relations, became firmly fastened on the country.

The author, Professor of History at Howard University, was born in Washington, D. C., just before McKinley's inauguration, when his race was at its post-war nadir. He attended Williams College and in 1936 received the Ph. D. from Harvard. He is author of several books, the research for which was done largely in the unsegregated Library of Congress, which institution he praises for its contribution to Negro education). Since 1950, he has been editor of the Journal of Negro History.

The story that Rayford Logan tells is an unhappy one. Between the end of Reconstruction in 1877 and the turn of the century the Negro gradually lost ground as the North, weary of controversy and eager to do business with the late Confederacy, acquiesced in Southern demands to be let alone. As the North yielded, Southerners step by step demoted the Negro to second-class citizenship.

RESIDENTS, both Republican and Democratic, though professing deep interest in Negroes, made no more than token resistance to the deprivation of their rights. The major political parties repeatedly pledged full legal rights to Negroes and then promptly forgot their commitments. Congress, save for a dwindling minority, made little effort to stay the tide of repression. The Supreme Court, to the end of the century, handed down decisions that nullified or curtailed rights of Negroes.

With a few notable exceptions, according to the author, white Americans—influenced by smugness, selfishness, social Darwinism, imperialism, the "genteel tradition" and the lingering spell of slavery and Southern chivalry—at first accepted and then applauded the Negro's subordination. Even some of the Negro leaders, and especially Booker T. Washington, lent their influence to the prevailing trend.

Portions of this book are understandably bitter and occasionally the author appears more the advocate than the historian. But the study, based on enormous research into sources not previously exploited by historians, is unusually rich in new fact and interpretation. All in all it is a valuable and absorbing contribution to the history of the Negro and the nation.

## Up from Reconstruction

THE NEGRO IN AMERICAN LIFE AND THOUGHT. By Rayford W. Logan. Dial Press. \$5.

BREAKTHROUGH ON THE COLOR FRONT. By Lee Nichols. Random House. \$3.50.

By Saunders Redding

THERE can be little doubt that when President Rutherford B. Hayes made an official tour of the South in 1877 he was laboring under a misapprehension. There is also little doubt that his was

SAUNDERS REDDING, professor of English at Hampton Institute, is the author of "Americans from Africa" and a forthcoming book, "An American in India," a report on the Indian dilemma.

a "conducted" tour. The misapprehension was that his gesture of good-will could persuade the former slave-holding states to respect the rights of the freedmen—rights that had been written into the Constitution by amendment and supposedly safeguarded by mandatory legislation, the latest being the Civil

Rights Act of 1875. The tour was conducted by carpet-baggers.

But though the carpet-baggers were Hayes's political friends, they were the enemies of his broad social hopes, and they had already defeated his purpose. Hayes had been elected by a temporary coalition of Northerners interested principally in economic exploitation and Southerners interested principally in politics and a return to the tripartite social structure that the Civil War had disrupted. On the one hand, the Freedmen's Bureau was at work; on the other Reconstruction was dying. Indeed, the Reconstruction acts of 1867 were nullified by Hayes himself when, in the very year of his tour, he withdrew from the South the troops stationed there to see that the acts were obeyed. The Fourteenth and Fifteenth amendments were everywhere disregarded. The former slaves, often as misguided as they were ignorant, were being pressed back into a condition differing little from slavery. By 1895 the nadir had been reached, and Booker Washington, as self-seeking as the rankest carpet-bagger, could make his infamous Atlanta Exposition speech to much applause from North and South.

That speech gave substance to the claims of those who believed in the Negro's inherent inferiority and laid down principles that would keep the Negro inferior. White reactionaries were jubilant. They proclaimed Booker Washington the Negro leader, and from then until his death Washington worked assiduously to suppress every forward-looking Negro effort. Disfranchisement, exclusion from even the simpler benefits of citizenship, gross discrimination went on apace. By 1900 the Negro had resigned himself to third-class citizenship.

Dr. Logan's book is almost painfully enlightening. It is proof of the author's scholarship that the facts are set down objectively and that the conclusions based on them are not only sound but temperate. No reader can miss the sig-

nificance of this brilliant first volume of a projected—and long needed—reevaluation of an important aspect of American history.

Lee Nichols's book tells how Negroes obtained equality of treatment and opportunity in the armed services. The effects of race discrimination on the Negro in particular and the American social order in general have long been recognized by an intelligent minority, but it took the necessities of the Second World War to produce an atmosphere conducive to legislative action on the legislative level, and even then the action was meant to be only mollifying. Few people took seriously the clause in the Selective Service Act of 1940 barring racial discrimination in the armed forces. About the only immediate result it had was to force the navy to accept more Negroes than formerly. Secretary of War Stimson and General George Marshall were themselves opposed to the integration of Negroes in the armed forces. Illiberal attitudes were encouraged in the lower echelons of the army, since it was believed that segregation had "proved satisfactory . . . and to make changes would produce situations destructive to morale and detrimental to the preparations for the national defense." Against this opposition the Negroes William Hastie, civilian aide to Stimson, Colonel Campbell B. Johnson, special aide to General Hershey, Director of the Draft, and Colonel Benjamin Davis, hastily elevated to Brigadier General, were helpless.

Stories from the battlefronts supported those who argued that the Negro did not make a good fighting man and that he should be segregated in non-fighting battalions. The men of the Negro 92nd division were accused of "drifting to the rear" in the fighting in Italy and of "excessive straggling and disorganization. Early reports from Korea said that Negroes of the 24th infantry "fled like rabbits.

But by now there was a sizable mino-

ity that knew that if these things were true, they were true for the very reason that Negroes were segregated. In 1948 President Truman determined to do something about it. He set up the Fahy committee whose function was to explore ways of "overcoming segregation in the armed forces. How earnestly and well that committee worked—aided by many individuals on many levels of policy and administration—and how it finally achieved its goal is the substance of "Breakthrough on the Color Front."

But also, as Mr. Nichols himself vs. his book "is the story of the coming of age of the American Negro" in the armed services; "of Negroes who battled through nearly two centuries for the 'right to fight' for their country; of Negro men and women who, despite grave abuses, generally kept their sense of national loyalty and dignity."



26b 1954

## NEGRO EMPLOYMENT IN THE BIRMINGHAM METROPOLITAN AREA

### Better Training Of Negroes Urged by NPA Washington

The greatest hope for increasing Negro employment opportunities in the South appeared to lie in improved education, according to a report released by the Committee of the South of the National Planning Association.

The NPA report was based on a study made in highly industrialized Birmingham, Ala.

"Those Negro educators with whom the question of training was discussed feel that the training of Negro workers should be extended to numerous occupations and trades for which no training is now provided," the report said. It was pointed out that many employers, in denying certain jobs to Negro workers, declare that such workers are not qualified by training for those jobs. *See 4-23-54*

"Unless Negroes already possess appropriate training when specific job vacancies occur, they will have no chance of widening their job opportunities," said NPA. "Such types of work normally include many skilled crafts or trades which often take years to learn.

"Training must be realistic. Negroes must be trained only for those trades and occupations for which there is already a demand or for which some demand can be foreseen."

The 136-page report, the third in the series, entitled "Negro Employment in the Birmingham Metropolitan Area," studied conditions in 43 firms. It is available at \$1.50 from NPA, 1606 New Hampshire Ave. N.W., Washington 9, D. C.



## Readable Summary On Segregation

**THE NEGRO AND THE SCHOOLS**; by Harry S. Ashmore; foreword by Justice Owen J. Roberts; University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill; 228 pp; \$2.75.

This is a new volume that appeared with remarkable timing. It appeared in the book store the same day the Supreme Court made its pronouncement that segregation in the public schools is unconstitutional.

The Ashmore volume is valuable chiefly as a reference book because it is a summary of the results of a nationwide survey on bi-racial education. Also there is a history of Negro education, and a history of the litigation and court proceedings regarding Negro education that began in New England long before the subject was ever deserving of general attention in the South.

The Ford Foundation for the advancement of education decided that a survey was necessary and forty-five students and scholars spent more than a year on the staff which compiled the facts and statistics.

The job of Mr. Ashmore who is executive editor of the Little Rock Gazette was to summarize the result and put it in readable form. He has made it both a readable and an instructive volume. The survey disclaims any purpose of showing bias in treatment of the subject of bi-racial education, and the material collected is expected to be valuable in dealing with a subject now made so urgent and acute by the supreme court's attitude.

Those really interested in the subject will find it hard to be well informed without the facts of this survey, and Mr. Ashmore's analysis and summary of the data puts it in most convenient form for study and reference.

C.M.S.



# Book Review

**THE NEGRO AND THE SCHOOLS**, by Harry S. Ashmore. University of N. C. Press, Chapel Hill. 228 pp. \$1.00.

If *The Negro and the Schools*, released just one day prior to the new emancipation proclamation of May 17, has no other importance, it proves now right the Supreme Court's decision was, and it completely discredits the fence-straddling of those ultra-conservatives who have in the instance derided the court's "disregard of social attitudes and conditions that have prevailed in the South for three hundred years."

This argument, repeated ad nauseum ad infinitum by the likes of James F. Byrnes and Herman Talmadge, amounts to no more than this: that whatever is, is right.

It is the ancient argument of all those who fear change. Harry S. Ashmore's high readable summation of eighteen substance studies and many more collateral materials delivers a hard blow at both the argument and the fear.

In the case of the first — that is, the argument — the blow is delivered by the statistical data, as, for example, that pertaining to the white-colored gap in Southern education.

Current expenditures (1952-53) in the southern region run \$165 per white child, \$115 per colored child. In the white schools of the region there are 4.7 library books per pupil; in the colored schools 1.8 books per pupil.

Between the salaries of white and colored teachers in eight southern states there is a 13 per cent gap. In four southern states the average salaries for colored teachers are higher than for whites.

But in these four states — Va., N.C., Okla., and Tenn. — though the differential is in favor of colored teachers, that differential is unjust unless it is based on valid, measurable indices.

As for the second — the fear — *The Negro and the Schools* delivers the blow by citing examples of what has been done and what has happened in those places where change has come about. New Jersey is an instance, though not the best one, since the state is geographically a northern state "with a southern exposure."

But there were dire predictions of violence, of dissatisfaction and of rebellion when New Jersey's southern counties integrated. Nothing happened.

And what failed to happen in New Jersey also failed to happen in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Kentucky when, in the face of similar predictions, these states admitted colored students to state institutions of higher learning.

Taken all in all, it would seem that the experience of integration in places formerly segregated is broad enough and long enough continued to have great significance for the processing of the court's decision on the lower levels of education.

Excepting the experience of death, no human experience is terminal; excepting the final spasm, no human action is. The court's decree is a first step. Ashmore's summary recognizes this fact, but does not go beyond it.

*The Negro and the Schools* is just a summary after all. It is helpful. It is not so helpful as the substance studies will be when they are published over the course of the next few months. It is a pity that the substance studies are not now available to the people who will have the job of implementing the court's decree.

## TALMADGE PLAN TO ABOLISH PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM WILL SET SOUTH BACK FIFTY YEARS

**Arkansas Speaker Says Blood Did Not Flow In the Streets When Negro Returned Balot Box**

## INTEGRATION TO BE SLOW PROCESS

WASHINGTON - (ANP) - Integration in the schools can be accomplished in the South without widespread violence, Harry S. Ashmore, executive editor of the *Arkansas Gazette* and author of the recently-published book, *"The Negro and the Schools,"* says.

Speaking to the Women's National Press Club at a luncheon held at the Mayflower hotel Friday, the southern writer recalled that it was prophesied when Negroes were given the franchise in the South that "blood would run in the streets if they showed up at the polls." But when they went to vote, nothing happened.

The speaker admitted, however, that the feeling against school in-

tegration runs more deeply than it did for the opening of polling booths to the Negro. "But," he continued, "I don't anticipate any wholesale violence."

He contended that integration will progress much more rapidly in some districts than in others. Some districts might integrate their schools within six months while others might take six years.

The speaker implied that he favored gradualism in integration by pointing out that children should not be forced into a hostile atmosphere. "Where there is hostility," he continued, "there can be no mass integration. Hostility will inhibit the right to learn."

He admitted that hostility on the part of students is usually inspired in the homes and such hostility could be overcome by proper instruction from parents and tolerance on the part of teachers.

White and Negro leaders of the South are now sitting down and discussing across the table the law and social system of their communities in an effort to work out a solution to meet the needs

of both races.

About 40 percent of all the school districts in the Confederate states, said Ashmore, have less than 10 per cent Negro population. He suggested that these districts could very well integrate without too much resentment, but the process will be much slower in the deep south where there is a larger Negro population. There are 11,000 school districts, he said, affected by the Supreme court's decision.

Most white Southerners didn't like the decision, he stated, "but there is no use kidding ourselves, they could not have ruled any other way."

The Negro has advanced on all other fronts, he continued, and the last resort was that of segregation in education. "This was a historic movement which marked one more milestone along the very difficult journey which the two races must travel together," Ashmore said.

He spoke of Gov. Talmadge's proposal to abolish all public schools if integration is forced upon his state. If Georgia actually carries out this threat it will set public education back 50 years for both races, and the losses will be far greater than the gains.

And education, he concluded, is the best means of liberating us all.

Negroes invited by the Women's Press Club to witness the lecture given by his authority on school integration included Mrs. Vivian Mason, president of the National Council of Negro Women; Louis Lautier of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, and Mrs. Alice A. Dunnigan of the Associated Negro Press.



# Southern Editor Sees End Of Bias In South Without Violence

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## NO OTHER WAY

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The Negro has advanced on all other fronts, he continued, and the last resort was that of segregation. He had been asked to participate as Resource Consultants for this significant workshop are Mrs. Phyllis O'Kelly of the Janie Porter Barrett School for Girls of Virginia; Dr. Raymond Goul, National Institute of Mental Health, Maryland; Mrs. Mae Holmes, North Carolina State School for Girls; Mr. Will Turnblad, National Probation and Parole Association of New York; Mr. John G. Theban, Executive Secretary, Family Child Services of Washington; Miss Doris Handy, Probation

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# BOOK REVIEWS

by

GERTRUDE MARTIN

"The Negro and the Schools" by Harry S. Ashmore is a summary of the findings of forty-five scholars in the field of bi-racial education in the United States. The studies were financed by the Fund for the Advancement of Education and three were based on the findings planned. The present short volume was published May 16 only a day before the Supreme Court decision outlawing segregation was handed down. This outrageously bad luck in a publication date has been corrected by the appearance of a revised edition which brings the book up to date and includes the full text of the decision.

"The Negro and the Schools" traces the development of bi-racial education in this country as well as the history of the legal assaults made upon it. The first of these came in Boston in 1849 in Roberts vs. the city of Boston and the famous abolitionist Charles Sumner was the lawyer of record.

This Boston decision although later set aside by law in Massachusetts provided a precedent in the non-South. In 1896 came the Plessy vs. Ferguson case in Louisiana which attacked the Louisiana statute requiring separation of the races on trains within the state.

Between 1896 and 1930 only three cases involving Negro education came before the Supreme Court but none of this directly challenged segregation. Changes began to come in the thirties however and the liberal atmosphere of the Roosevelt administrations the pressure of population in the South and the depression combined to make the problem of more acute. In 1935 came the bi-racial education in general Murray case which resulted in the

Maryland Court of Appeals ruling that Murray be admitted to the state law school.

The author discusses bi-racial education in the non-South where only fairly recently in communities in Arizona, New Jersey, Indiana and Illinois segregation is on the way out.

There is an interesting chapter on Washington and its segregated schools which tells of the discrepancies in funds present for Negro and white pupils (\$273. to \$212). and the efforts which have been made to keep the schools separate there in the face of rapidly shifting population.

For the South Mr. Ashmore states that change is inevitable and was before the Court ruling which will of course accelerate the process. Since residential segregation is more strictly observed in the urban South than the North it is unlikely that appreciable change will come in the schools for a long time.

## THE NEGRO AND THE SCHOOLS



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NEGROES IN THE WORK GROUP

# NCCJ Publishes Booklet On Job Fairness

NEW YORK (ANP)—Employers wishing to institute fair employment practices can get a fill in by reading a recently published nine-point, 16-page booklet on the subject.

National Conference of Christians and Jews, 381 Fourth Ave., New York 16, N. Y.

The booklet, entitled "Negroes In the Work Group," was published by the National Conference of Christians and Jews, an organization dedicated to combating racial discrimination.

The work is the result of a research study conducted by the New York State Industrial and Labor Relations School of Cornell University. It was written by Dr. Jacob Seidenberg, executive director of the President's Committee on Government Contracts.

Designed to show how some 33 American business and industrial firms instituted and followed through on a program of fair employment, the booklet emphasizes these points:

1. A firm and unequivocal stand must be taken by the employer.
2. An orientation program can be most helpful in making the company's policies clear to all employees.
3. Minority workers initially hired must be carefully selected.
4. All possible help in recruiting qualified workers should be obtained from various agencies.
5. The minority worker should be treated in the same manner as all other employees, not as some one "special" or "different."
6. The minority worker, when hired, must also assume some responsibility for his own promotion and economic advancement.
7. Common facilities should be shared by all employees.
8. There should be no segregated work areas.
9. The support and assistance of social agencies, labor unions and the community should be solicited in initiating and enforcing such a policy.

The NCCJ was founded in 1928 by the late Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes.

Its co-chairmen are Benson Ford, vice president, Ford Motor Co., Roger W. Straus, board chairman, American Smelting and Refining Co., and James F. Twehy, West Coast industrialist.

Those applying for the new publication should write to: Labor-Management Commission.



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## NEGROES IN THE WORK GROUP



# The Meaning of the Song

**NEGRO SLAVE SONGS IN THE UNITED STATES.** By Miles Mark Fisher. Foreword by Ray Allen Billington. 223 pp. Published for the American Historical Association. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. \$4.

By B. A. BOTKIN

**W**HAT do Negro spirituals mean and how did they come to be written? For years folklorists, anthropologists and musicologists have worried and wrangled over such questions as Christian vs. protest significance and African vs. white origins. According to Miles Mark Fisher, Professor of Church History at Shaw University, the experts have only confused and distorted the picture.

Why? Because they have insisted on seeing spirituals as religious folk music instead of the contemporary expression of individual slave experiences. Beginning where most students have left off, the author of this rewritten and expanded doctoral dissertation unlocks the word-board of the slave songs and the "racial situation" with the key of cultural history and from the point of view of the Negro and his own musical and historical documents.

The author takes his cue and most of his texts from that earliest systematic collection, "Slave Songs of the United States," by Allen, Ware and Garrison (1867), which saw in the songs a "safety-valve" of their [the slaves'] complaining and revolting against oppression. The secret camp meeting provided an outlet for complaint, serving much the same purpose as the African secret tribal assembly and employing songs as veiled protests. The African cult also led to the revolt of the militant minority under such leaders as Nat Turner, who ironically used songs like "Steal Away" as signal songs to convene confederates.

Following the collapse of the Nat Turner insurrection, leaders used songs to teach slaves to get along by persuasion ("live 'umble"), while songs on the fugitive theme encouraged escape to



In the cotton fields.

free territory (Frederick Douglass' "Canaan"). Still other songs were "parting" and "wish" songs, with Liberia as the "Promised Land" of colonization.

**F**INALLY, with the training and recruiting of Negro soldiers in the Union Army, slaves sang of soldiers, armies, cannon-balls, milk-white horses, etc. The Civil War also brought Negro missionaries into the South and saw the founding of independent Negro churches and praise-houses, with denominational songs crediting religion for the "miracle" of emancipation, though the Christian vocabulary still veiled Africanisms and the trials of Reconstruction.

Perhaps the most important contribution of this admirable book is its demonstration of historical methods and its documentation of historical backgrounds for the study of Negro folk song. At the same time, more attention to slave folklore and folk religion and comparison with slave secular songs such as Thomas W. Talley's "Negro Folk Rhymes" would have broadened and strengthened the base of the study. Attempts to date and localize songs and identify references to per-

sons and events are often based on insufficient evidence. And it is not always clear whether a song's symbolism is before or after the fact. But such a scholarly, historical revaluation of Negro spirituals has been long overdue and it is as illuminating as it is challenging.

Mr. Botkin is the editor of "Lay My Burden Down: A Folk History of Slavery."

**Faculty Member  
Honored For  
Recent Book**

RALEIGH, N. C. — Shaw University paid honor to one of her faculty members, Dr. Miles Mark Fisher of Durham, in recognition of his most recent book entitled **NEGRO SLAVE SONGS IN THE UNITED STATES**, which is receiving wide acclaim. The program was held Wednesday night in the West Campus Auditorium. In a statement regarding the thesis of the book, Dr. Fisher said that he believes that the Negro spirituals and songs of the antebellum South may have been more than simply musical expression. A review of the book was made by Professor Caulbert A. Jones, Department of History, North Carolina College at Durham, who stated that this is the most significant book

ever written on the Negro, and that the whole evaluation and opinion of the Negro will have to be re-done.

Dr. Fisher received his Ph. D. from the University of Chicago, his D. D. from Shaw University where he is now professor of Church History. He is also pastor of the White Rock Baptist Church in Durham. Previous books by Dr. Fisher include **The Master's Slave — Elijah John Fisher, Virginia Union University and Some of Her Achievements**, and **A Short History of the Baptist Denomination**. The recent book was published for The American Historical Association by Cornell University Press, Ithaca, N. Y.

A brief introduction of the program was given by Dr. William R. Strassner, president of Shaw. Three Negro Spirituals were sung by Henry Blackmon Jr., baritone, accompanied by Harry Gil-Smythe. Prayer was offered by Dr. Grady D. Davis, dean of the School of Religion. The closing feature of the evening was a reception in the Student center in honor of Dr. Fisher.

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# Neither North Nor South

## WALKING ON BORROWED LAND.

By William A. Owens. 304 pp. Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Company. \$3.50.

THIS is a gripping novel of the conflict between the white and Negro races. In some cases the white writer who tries this topic falls over backward to be condescending to the minority. William A. Owens, a native Texan who teaches writing at Columbia University, does not make this mistake. Through sharp characterization and the art of first-class storytelling, he brings out with great force the strength, the weakness and, to a degree, the ignorance of both races.

Mose Ingram grew up on a Mississippi plantation and conducted the school there. When he was in his forties and happily married to Josie, a plantation girl, he departed Jim Crow country and attended the University of Chicago. Then he took a job as principal of the Negro school in an Oklahoma town. This was middle country—neither in the North or the South. It was a frontier of old prejudices and a new attempt at understanding.

"You ask me what I am doing for our race," Ingram said to the editor of the Negro newspaper. "My answer is: all that one Negro in Oklahoma can do. I teach the children to respect their race, to have pride in their people. I teach them to prepare themselves, to make themselves worthy of their opportunities."

Tragedy saddened the principal's heart and made his way hard. His wife, longing for the plantation, fell for superstitions. The seeds of ancient prejudices sprouted in two of his three sons. He faced near riots. At times his own weakness brought troubles down on his head. But he was steadfast, a fine, honest character of the caliber of Booker T. Washington.

The novel does not depend on the conflicts of race for absorbing interest; it is a good story, packed with situation and suspense, and it makes effective use of folk-ways, superstition and idiom. A "regional" novel in the best sense, rather than a

"problem" novel, it does not flinch from the ominous tensions that have always existed. Instead, it explores them in terms of character. As a result, the drama these tensions engender has interest in its own right, quite apart from the sociological issues involved—a rare achievement indeed, as any reviewer can testify.

Mr. Owens grew up with Negroes (and also "white trash") in the blackland farming belt of northern Texas. He worked with Negroes, studied their songs, lore and superstitions. During the recent war one of his jobs with the Counter-Intelligence Corps was that of studying racial friction. He was stationed in Tulsa at the time of an outburst of racial hatred, and there he saw first-hand the problems that are portrayed so convincingly in his first novel.

LEWIS NORDYKE.



The Montgomery  
(Ala) Advertiser

OCT 10 1954

## Tuskegee Talks

THE NEW SOUTH AND HIGHER EDUCATION—Department of Record Research, Tuskegee Institute; Paragon Press, Montgomery, Ala.

This volume consists of a symposium of addresses and ceremonies in connection with the ceremonies held at the time of the inauguration of Luther Hilton Foster as fourth president of Tuskegee Institute. It is a convenient means of referring to the views of participants in the ceremonies upon the implications for higher education in the changing socio-economic con-

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ditions of the South."

There is an introduction by Jessie, P. Guzman, acting for the inaugural committee.—C. M. S.



## Former Shaw Dean Author Of Biography

RALEIGH, N. C.—Charles R. Frazer, Sr., formerly dean at Shaw University, recently has written a biography of Nicholas Franklin Roberts, pioneer in religion, education and civic relations in North Carolina. The biography has been issued by N. F. Roberts Shaw Club of Raleigh and is priced at \$1.00 per copy.

Proceeds will go toward establishing a scholarship at Shaw to commemorate Dr. Roberts' contribution to his alma mater. The volume contains a preface by G. E. Cheek, executive secretary of Shaw University National Alumni Association. The volume also contains 13 chapters and traces the career of Dr. Roberts from his birth in 1849 to his death at his Oberlin road home in Raleigh, June 1934.

Frazer's biography promises to be a valuable contribution to the history of Shaw. It illuminates much of the cultural activity of the period that it treats. Copies are available through the National Alumni office, Shaw University and the Baptist book store, S. Wilmington street.

## Finishes biography of Shaw U. figure

RALEIGH — Charles R. Frazer Sr., former dean at Shaw University, has recently written the life story of "Nicholas Franklin Roberts, pioneer in Religion, Education and Civic Relations in North Carolina."

Mr. Frazer's biography has been issued by the N. F. Roberts Shaw Club of Raleigh and priced at \$1 per copy.

Proceeds from sale of the book will go toward establishing a scholarship at Shaw to commemorate Dr. Roberts' contribution to his alma mater.



## Race issue, crime and love varied strands in fabric

THE NIGHT WINDS, by Brian Cleeve. (Houghton Mifflin, \$2.75 and 35 cents).

NOVELS ABOUT Johannesburg, South Africa, the great gold mining center, are increasing. They do not flatter the city. This one runs true to that course.

Brian Cleeve enmeshes representatives of three classes—the colored, who border on white; the wealthy and those who have crossed the color line and live as whites.

The fast-paced, suspenseful story, whirls around Ann Burroughs, beautiful, dark-haired, light skinned, but colored, and Sidney Hiram, the man of wealth. Hiram is helpless before the attraction she has for him from the first time he sees her.

The novel speeds into a hard grip when Ann's brother and a man who loves her part in a safe-cracking at Hiram's home. They are after golden art treasures.

The high point of the story is a costume ball at the magnificent Hiram home. Into this setting are brought all the principals in the story.

Cleeve shows touches of beauty in much of his writing. But he leaves the reader guessing at as to what the future may be for Ann Burroughs and her kind—LANE CARTER.

EXISTENTIAL PSYCHO-ANALYSIS, by Jean-Paul Sartre. (Philosophical Library, \$4.75). A blend of philosophy and psychology in presenting a new psychoanalysis based on the principles of existentialism.

THE POOR MAN'S GUIDE TO EUROPE, by David Dodge. (Random, \$2.95). An up-to-date edition of a book that combined usefulness and humor and got a lot of attention in 1953.



**Dark Uncertainties****South African Social Strife  
Forms Fabric for Fine Novel**

Reviewed by Eugene Feehan

Post Staff Member

**THE NIGHT WINDS.** By Brian Cleeve. Houghton, Mifflin.

244 pp. \$2.75.

PERHAPS NO AREA in the modern world offers more violent contrast as background for a novel than South Africa. The brooding resentment of a race too long suppressed, the uneasy fear of those in control, the dark uncertainty of Africa itself are fine ingredients for fiction.

In "The Night Winds," Brian Cleeve has taken full advantage of these elements to compound a novel of striking power and perception in the revelation of character through incident.

Ann, a lovely Negress who is almost white, loses her book-keeping job at a cosmetic factory when it is sold to a wealthy Jew. The new owner, Sidney Hiram, is attracted by her beauty, and she becomes his mistress, partly in the hope that his influence will get her a "white" passport to Europe. Then he tires of her.

Meanwhile, Sonny, Ann's brother, and Jonas, her former lover, plot the robbery of Hiram's home. Master of the plot is Saul, a shrewd, young-old Negro who, despite his symbolic value, is perhaps the most absorbing character in the novel.

ON ANOTHER LEVEL is Franz Keitel, a former Nazi officer now reduced to the status of an insurance salesman, employed temporarily by Hiram. Although goaded by the failure of his own life, Keitel hesitates to develop an affair with Marjorie, Hiram's

drunken, embittered wife.

Then comes the robbery, with all the accumulated implications of its symbolism. Each character is catapulted into the situation as into a maelstrom. Some are sucked down more by their own weakness than by the vortex; others are spun upward into the sunlight by cunning or luck or strength.

Cleeve has curbed some of the bitterness he must feel toward a country that expelled him last year for his liberal attitudes and has written with brilliance and compassion about a problem he fully understands.



EMPIRE STATE BLDG. 350 FIFTH AVE. NYC

# Schenley to Distribute Negro History Calendar

NEW YORK. — A 1955 Negro History calendar and Yearbook, which marks in graphic art many of the highlights of the American Negro's rise in the United States over more than 100 years, has been prepared for distribution by the Schenley Industries Corporation and its distributing subsidiaries. The calendar will be given free, Schenley officials have announced, upon request.

From original art done by Charles Carter, the calendar includes twelve reproductions of scenes and individuals. Among these whose contributions are brought into sharp focus by the Carter art are Frederick Douglass, the great abolitionist; Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, distinguished surgeon; Dr. George Washington Carver; Booker T. Washington, founder of Tuskegee Institute; Benjamin Banneker, an internationally known inventor and Crispus Attucks, first Colonial to die in the American Revolution.

Designed as an easy to handle desk-piece, the calendar measures 5 1-2 by 8 1-2 inches folded. It is also adaptable to hanging on walls and convenient places and while it is a calendar for 1955, observers have pointed out that the creation lends itself to permanent use as a reference piece on Negro history.

In announcing the publication of the calendar, which will be available after November 5th, in any portion of the country from which requests come, Schenley officials said that the calendar had been conceived as a "concrete expression of high regard" for the immeasurable contributions made to the growth and progress of the United States by Negroes.

One of the country's leading distillers, the Schenley organization was among the first to employ Negro salesmen and national representatives. Located in the major centers of minority population, these representatives will aid, the company announced, in the distri-



26b 1954

"NINETY YEARS PLUS TEN EQUALS FREEDOM"

# Intensive Ten Year Drive

## '90 Years Plus 10' Equals Freedom

### National Association Report Reviews Gains Made By Group

New York, June 25—Initiation of an intensive ten-year drive to secure full citizenship rights for Americans of all races within the next decade, continuation of a frontal assault on racial segregation in public education, and the successful conclusion of a Supreme Court case which rendered the racial restrictive covenant in real estate a "mere scrap of paper" are described in the 1953 annual report of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as among the most important activities of the organization during the past year.

The report, entitled "Ninety Years Plus Ten Equals Freedom," was made public here today.

The Association's ten-year "Fight for Freedom" campaign, the report relates, was initiated at the 1953 annual convention of the organization. The campaign was formulated to step up the group's civil rights work to "achieve the Association's goal of an integrated American society free of racial, religious or national origin handicaps" by Jan. 1, 1963. That date marks the centennial of the Emancipation Proclamation.

#### Freedom Fund Launched

To achieve this goal, the report notes, the 1954 convention voted unanimously to raise a "Fight for Freedom Fund" of \$1,000,000 annually for the succeeding decade to underwrite the work of the NAACP.

Reargument before the U. S. Supreme Court of five NAACP cases challenging the constitutionality of segregation in public elementary and high schools is detailed by the report as a "new challenge" which the Association's Legal Department "lost no time" in meeting. The cases were rear argued Dec. 7 to 10.

In another case brought by the NAACP to the Supreme Court last year, the booklet says, the high court ruled that since restrictive

covenants in real estate cannot be enforced by state or federal courts, signers of such restrictive covenants are not entitled to damages if a co-signer breaks the agreement and sells to a Negro or other prescribed family.

The main areas in which the NAACP worked during 1953, according to the report, were education, housing, employment, travel, public accommodations and recreation, and the military. In all these areas the Association sought to break down racial discrimination and segregation.

#### FEPC for Alaska

Further accomplishments of the NAACP last year cited in the report include passage of a fair employment practices law which enforcement powers in the Territory of Alaska, largely as the result of work carried on by the Association's branch in Anchorage, Alaska; passage of civil rights legislation in the state of Oregon following an intensive drive for such legislation spearheaded by NAACP units in that locality and successful register and vote campaigns waged by Southeast units to increase the number of Negro voters in the region to three million by the 1956 presidential election.

Pending at the end of the year was a comprehensive complaint filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission by NAACP lawyers asking the Commission to ban segregation of interstate passengers by railroads, stations, and restaurants in stations. This move is described in the report as an attempt to "end Jim Crow travel at a single stroke."

During the year, the booklet reports, the Association tried and failed to secure enactment of an anti-Jim Crow travel bill by Congress.

The report says the Association also tried, unsuccessfully, to curb Senate filibusters by securing a new cloture rule; to have a time set for hearings on a fair employment practices bill with enforcement power in the House Labor Committee; and to have attached to the Taft-Hartley law an amendment to brand race discrimination an "unfair" practice by either management or trade unions.

#### Migrant Workers Aided

Continuing work on behalf of agricultural migrant workers was conducted during the year. Efforts by the NAACP, in cooperation

with other organizations, resulted camps in Pennsylvania by the state labor and industry department for "filthy" conditions, and the announcement by several Pennsylvania state agencies of a "rigid" program of inspection and enforcement in migrant camps in that state.

The report states that during 1953 the Association's membership climbed for the fourth consecutive year, reaching a total of 240,000 members—as compared with 215,000 members at the end of 1952. The board of directors chartered 119 new units last year, which brought the number of local units to 1,235. These were located in 44 states, the District of Columbia and the Territory of Alaska.



# Rogers Says:

He Would Like to Write a Book  
On Negro History But Needs \$\$

By J. A. ROGERS

THIS year is the twentieth for "Your History."

It began in 1934 when Mr. Nunn, managing editor, saw my *Courier* "100 Amazing Facts About the Negro" and suggested a cartoon on it.

Since then over 3,000 important items have been given, a few of which have been repeated by request.

It has called for much research, the more so as I use only a small part of what is found. Finding portraits of the persons is even harder.



Mr. Rogers

In this, Mr. A. S. Milai deserves great praise. He is a wizard at taking some indistinct picture and getting it like. He has been superior in this field.

1954 IS also my fortieth year in research specially on the Negro. I have found things which in view of my early training I once thought incredible.

Many whites and Negroes still don't want to believe them no matter how many authorities or portraits I give.

I could tell quite a few stories on this. At a lecture given by a white professor when I said that John VI, King of Portugal (1767-1826) was a Negro, he said "No."

I quoted Duchess d'Aranfes, who lived at his court and who mentions "his enormous head with its Negro hair which was in harmony with his thick lips, his African nose, and the color of his skin."

His reply was, "The king

had adenoids," inferring that adenoids made him look like that.

ONE BEETHOVEN worshiper indignantly denied that Beethoven had a Negro accompanist.

After that, I found it useless to tell him of Beethoven's real ancestry.

Another nearly had a fit when I told him that Napoleon had a brother-in-law of Negro ancestry and that Napoleon's chief female confidante (and perhaps more) was a black woman from Haiti.

And so on with many other rare but true facts.

Why, there are even Negroes who don't like to hear that Christ and the Virgin Mary were originally jet-black and are still worshiped as such by many white people in Europe.

THE STORY of the research, itself, would fill a pretty large volume. I have consulted many thousands of books, some of them with the world's rarest facts as "Intermediare des Chercheurs et des Curieux" of about 100 volumes; and "Notes and Queries" of even more.

I have walked, too, over most of the large cities of Europe and North Africa in search of this history.

In one museum in Rome I saw the coins of Hannibal of 247 B. C., with the face of a Negro on them. I have dug up a lot on the Moors, who conquered Southern Europe in 711 A. D.

They became the ancestors of many living white families, who are proud to have these jet-black Negroes in their coats-of-arms.

I have reproduced hundreds such in "Nature Knows No Color-Line."

ORTHODOX HISTORIANS, including some Negroes, have not liked all this. Gunnar Myrdal called me a "pseudo-historian."

But two of the very best and most fearless in the field have more than made up for this, namely, H. L. Mencken and Dr. W. E. B. DuBois.

Mencken said "Sex and Race" was "presented with utmost effectiveness... a very important job."

DuBois said, "No man living has revealed so many important facts on the Negro as Rogers."

I have collected such an enormous amount on the Negro in America, that I am sometimes tempted to write a history on him.

A real, live, down-to-earth one.

But if I did, I would only have to go through the same as I did with my fourteen others, that is, collect the matter, write it up, raise money to pay the printer, do all the work of publishing and then try to sell it, in short, doing the work of a dozen people.

WHAT CONCERNS me now is getting out again Vol. 2 of *World's Great Men of Color*.

I have several calls from libraries for it. But the cost is around \$6,000. Now, I recently got out the "100 Amazing Facts."

It's a dollar and if I could get readers to send in for say 2,000, I could get the printer started. There may be even those who might wish to do like a certain white woman in Detroit who has been buying copies and sending them free over the country.

One batch went to the Bishop of Massachusetts; others to white colleges in the South.

I've just received a letter from the State Board of Education, Austin, Tex., saying the book she sent has been placed specially "where staff members will have an opportunity to read it. We appreciate having this material..."

Ten of them can be had for \$7. Write me c/o Courier, 2091 Seventh Avenue, New York 27, N. Y.



170 PAGE APPRAISAL OF THE BACKGROUND OF THE U.S. SUPREME COURT DECISION OUTLAWING PUBLIC SCHOOL SEGREGATION BY- EMORY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

# Emory Group Appraises Ruling on Segregation

A 170-page appraisal of the background of the U.S. Supreme Court decision outlawing public school segregation has been issued by the Emory University School of Law.

Leo J. Wade, Burlington, N.J., a senior law student. Associate editors are Aaron L. Buchsbaum, Savannah, and John W. Chambers, Atlanta.

The study, included in the school's "Journal of Public Law," contains articles and discussions by 12 experts in the fields of law, sociology and economics.

**NO PARTICULAR** conclusion is drawn in the study and no plans are advocated. It consists largely of facts about attitudes toward segregation, possible avenues of action by the Southern state, and probable economic consequences.

Emory officials said the study is perhaps the most comprehensive of its kind yet published on the subject.

In the article, a university professor and fiscal expert estimates that it would cost about \$85,000,000 to equalize the educational expenditures for white and Negro children.

Capital outlays of about \$800,000,000 would be required to bring Negro schools up to minimum standards, says Dr. Ernest W. Swanson, Emory professor of economics and former senior fiscal analyst for the U.S. Bureau of the Budget.

**BESIDES** Dr. Swanson, contributors to the issue include such experts as Dr. Howard W. Odum, professor of sociology at the University of North Carolina; Dr. Rupert B. Vance of the University of North Carolina; John Temple Graves, Birmingham, Ala., editor and newspaper columnist; Kenneth S. Carlston, professor of law, University of Illinois; Wylie H. Davis, professor of law, University of Arkansas; Mozell Hill, Atlanta University, and Gerhard Leibholz, associate justice of the Federal Constitutional Court of the German Federal Republic. Editor of the publications is



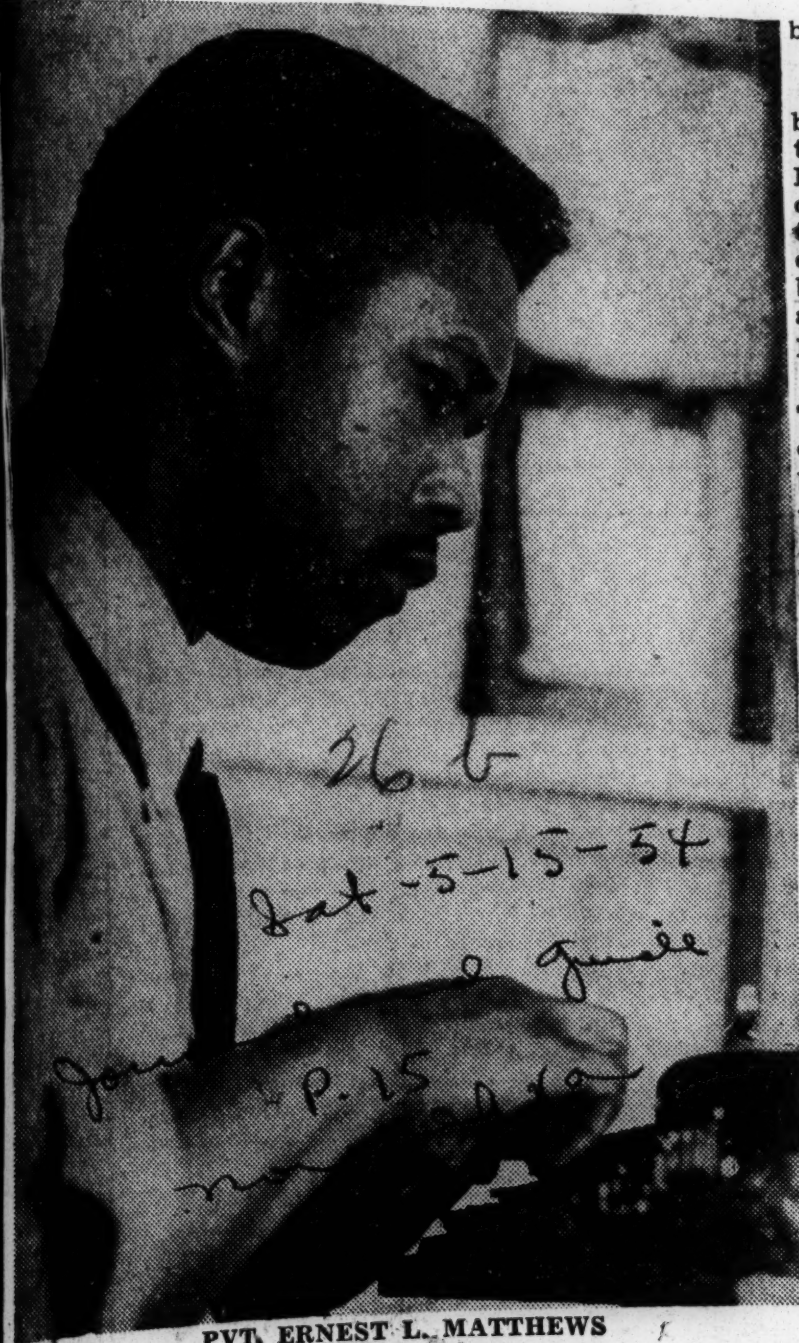
## Army Private Publishes Novel

FORT DEVENS, Mass. — Army life is a full-time job for most privates, but not for Ernest L. Matthews, jr., of Norfolk, Va., whose first novel, "Out of Bounds," has just been published in a pocket-size edition by Universal Publishing Co. of New York City.

A psychological novel about a U. S. soldier in post-war Germany, "Out of Bounds" was begun three years ago while Matthews was stationed in Europe.

239- 4th Ave. N. Y.





PVT. ERNEST L. MATTHEWS  
Publishes Novel

## Young Norfolk Soldier Publishes First Novel

*P. 15*  
FORT DEVENS, Mass. — Pvt. Ernest L. Matthews, as the saying goes, found a home in the Army. The young Norfolkian, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest L. Matthews Sr., reside at 2502 Courtney street,

has recently published a fast moving novel that has appeared in paperbound copies on newsstands and bookstalls all over the country.

The novel, "Out of Bounds," deals with the problems of Negro soldiers, German women and the resultant "brown ba-

bies" in post war Germany.

PVT. MATTHEWS is a member of the 86th Army band stationed at Fort Devens, Mass. In addition, he is a columnist on the Fort Devens Dispatch, the post's weekly newspaper edited by army personnel. His beat takes him all over the post and into the surrounding cities, Boston, in particular.

He convinced Boston's top TV station to audition GI talent and recently served on the board of judges who selected talent to appear on Ted Mack's all-GI show on Armed Forces Day. *Sat - 5-15-54*

Four years had been devoted to his first novel and he is now at work on the second. Between times, he writes short stories.

"PUBLISHING the novel made me very happy," he said, "but soon I'll be even happier because I'll be on furlough and re-united with my family at Barraud Park."

Pvt. Matthews was graduated from Booker T. Washington High School and received further education at the University of Maryland and at a newspaper institute.



# The Fatal Flaw in the Beloved Country

THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA.  
By Sarah Gertrude Millin. 337 pp.  
New York: Alfred A. Knopf. \$4.50.

By JOHN BARKHAM

**A**LMOST thirty years ago—that is a long time before writing became the national pastime in South Africa—a young South African novelist named Sarah Gertrude Millin painted a word picture of her people, warts and all, in a book that was easy to read and hard to forget. The present book is virtually a rewritten version of the original work and, despite the state of recent reports on South Africa from lesser hands, it should become a standard work more as it is in England and South Africa.

This reviewer's acquaintance with "The People of South Africa" dates back to the edition of 1934, when Mrs. Millin was still reasonably hopeful about the future. Then, as now, she quoted Anthony Trollope's famous dictum of 1877: "South Africa is a country of black men—not of white men. It has been so, it is so, and it will be so." Twenty years ago she was content to leave it to history to decide whether Trollope was right or wrong. Now she is gloomy and looks apprehensively over her shoulder as history hurries the people of South Africa to their showdown.

South Africans like to pattern themselves on America in their way of life and they sometimes refer to their Union as "the other U. S. A." Mrs. Millin also sees the parallel, but from a different angle. South Africa, she notes, was discovered about the same time as America, and on the same quest, but there the comparison ends. One opened its doors, the other closed them. Today the white South African is outnumbered four to one by the Negro, whereas here it is the other way round. We have greatly developed our human and natural resources; the South Africans have not. Had history followed a different course, Mrs. Millin wonders, might there not have been a United States of

Africa today, peopled by a great, energetic nation giving its help to the Old World?

It goes without saying that Mrs. Millin probes much deeper below the surface than the visitors who come, see and condemn. She condemns too, but not with the fleeting fervor of the passerby who doesn't have to live with the problem.

Undoubtedly the fatal flaw in South African nationhood is that its component parts never did fuse into a whole. The immigrant arriving in this U. S. A. is proud to become an American. But in the other U. S. A. this has not happened, although forty-four years have passed since Union. There isn't even agreement about what constitutes a South African. The Boer, or Afrikaner, holds himself aloof from other groups. The English-speaking South African, having made the money, now finds the Boer is making the laws and would like to co-operate, but isn't allowed to. And the nonwhite races hold a second-class citizenship which keeps them out automatically.

All this Mrs. Millin describes in the sonorous, dramatic prose which has made her the most distinguished South African woman writer since Olive Schreiner. Her book is both a vivid history of South Africa and an acutely perceptive study of the centrifugal forces that keep its people in a constant state of racial and political flux. She names names where necessary and gives praise and blame where they are due. Her exposure of the powerful political secret society known as the Broederbond will come as a surprise to most Americans. At the same time, her judgments on Afrikaner leaders like General Hertzog and Dr. Malan are more balanced than those they customarily receive in this country.

Since Americans now have their interest so firmly fixed on South Africa, they cannot do better than acquire the real facts of South African life through this book. It is a bril-

liant exposition of a complex story, presented in a prose of rare distinction. If Mrs. Millin offers no panacea it is because there is none.

*Mr. Barkham, managing editor of Coronet, was born in South Africa and is a student of its affairs.*



**The Week's  
BOOKS**

POETS THAT APPEAL

"THE POET'S POT" (Pageant, \$2.50) by Trudi Howard is a collection of poems on numerous topics. Feeling that "poems are personalities and poems are appreciated by individuals particularly if they fit situations with which they have experience or are familiar," Mrs. Howard presents poems that appeal to just about every "poetic taste." More than a few of these poems contain meanings, reminding one of the poetry of Emily Dickinson and Melvin F. Tolson.

RANDOLPH FISHER  
Savannah, Georgia

*not sent  
to be cause  
lack of address*



# South Carolina U. Professor Advises Negro Expansion

*Black Belt*  
COLUMBIA, S. C. — (ANP) —

A University of South Carolina economics professor said in a survey last week that training programs and increased opportunity for Negroes must be made available if the state is to pull its per-capita income to anywhere near the national level.

*Chatham Co.*  
Writing in "Population Changes by Race," Robert W. Paterson concluded that "since Negroes form the group with extremely low incomes, it is obvious that any efforts to improve relative income position of South Carolina will have to be directed toward this group."

South Carolina ranks 45th in the nation on the basis of per-capita income. It follows, said Paterson, that productivity and consumption in the state are proportionately low.

The professor pointed out however, that white median income in the state closely approaches the total average income for the nation. The reason for the state's total per capita income being so low, he said, is the low Negro income.

*Jan 12-18-54*  
"To appreciably raise Negro incomes, even in the cities, will require training programs and opportunities for them to prove their capacity for highly technical employment. Only in this way will the power of the state to increase its production and consumption levels be firmly harnessed," he asserted.

Paterson said the problem of "low Negro productivity" is being remedied to some extent by limited state and "great private enterprise. Prosperous conditions in other states are attracting some Negroes, while industrial employment in the cities of the state is inducing others to move away from farm work."

• Another part of the study indicated that the production of Negroes is on the decline in the state. The proportion was high-

## POPULATION CHANGES BY RACE

est in 1880—61 of every 100 persons were Negroes then as compared to 36 out of every 100 in 1950.

However, from 1890 to the present, the number of Negroes has increased, but the proportion has declined and the trend is expected to continue, said Paterson. Statistics released also revealed that Clarendon county is in second place in the state in percentage of Negroes. The county received nationwide attention as one of the original five defendants in segregation cases before the Supreme court. Negroes account for 71 percent of the people in the country.



26b 1954

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

# President, Nixon *Admission P. 1* *Work for pamphlet* Plead For Ending To Discrimination

WASHINGTON, Sept. 6 (AP)—President Eisenhower and Vice President Nixon appealed to the nation's business and labor union leaders today for more help in the administration program for ending employment discrimination among whites and Negroes.

Under the auspices of the President's Committee on Government Contracts, nearly 500,000 pamphlets discussing the problem are being distributed throughout the country.

Two points are being emphasized:

"First, the growing industrial might of this country requires the largest possible reserve of skilled manpower.

"Second, in the world struggle for the minds of men, America's position of leadership makes it mandatory that we not be subject

to the charge of racial prejudice which is being hurled at us every day by the Communists."

A message from Eisenhower is contained in the pamphlet, and in addition Nixon has written a letter to business and industrial leaders in all major companies holding contracts with the federal government. All these contracts contain antidiscrimination clauses.

Eisenhower commended the committee on government contracts for its work.



26b 1954

**Fair Employment—a History**

**RACE, JOBS, POLITICS, THE STORY**

**OF FEPC.** By Louis Ruchames. Columbia. \$3.75. *2-28-54* *P. 153*

This is a well-written description of the struggle for equality of job opportunity, most of it devoted to the stormy life of the Fair Employment Practices Committee of World War II. The author describes the snowballing demand for war-time action against discrimination, the threatened "March on Washington" of June, 1941, that led to establishment of the committee, subsequent wrangles in Congress, and the committee's more famous cases. He shows convincingly that the war-time F. E. P. C. caused a radical change in thinking about civil rights by dramatizing the role that government can and should play in establishing equality and that it was a decisive factor in the enactment of dozens of state laws against discrimination between 1945 and 1950. On several occasions, however, President Roosevelt faltered in his support of the war-time committee.

RACE, JOBS, POLITICS, THE STORY OF FEPC





~~~~~FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

## "Race Relations And The Negro Press"

by Irvin Dagen ~~~~~

THIS Week-end offers Lincoln's Birthday, Race Relations Sunday and St. Valentine's Day, a veritable field day for columnists. If all the platitudes put forth for these occasions were to end to end they would probably reach to the Fourth of July, the most important of all days for saying the most to hear the least.

So, having recalled attention to these commemorations, I'd like to call attention to an article in the current issue of PHYLON (which is published at Atlanta University). It is entitled "RACE RELATIONS AND THE NEGRO PRESS" and is by P. L. Prattis. It opens with this statement:

"Improvement of race relations was one of the primary concerns of the Negro press. The first Negro newspaper was born to protest. Its function was to speak up for the rights of Negroes, to wage war against those who would have kept Negroes in chains."

From there, the author poses two interesting propositions:

1. The Negro in America has made such tremendous gains in social, political and economic status in the past twenty years, that

2. The Negro press will now have to change its orientation and attitudes if it wants to stay in business.

That puts the matter very broadly and bluntly, but he has some documentation for point one, yet in order to accept his second point it is necessary to accept his second point it is necessary to accept point one. If you don't, there the argument ends, and the Negro press can go on as heretofore. And the author says that much of the progress to date is due to the Negro press. But, if

you do accept point one, here, in the author's words, are what the Negro press has to do:

"I believe that the way out for the Negro publisher is in the direction of a new and better kind of newspaper which will take advantage of the growth of democracy in the United States and present a news and feature coverage based, not on race or color, but on the interests of its readers. The Negro newspaper of the not too distant future may be published by Negroes, but will be for and of people, white people and black people. It will be a newspaper which will be fair to whites as well as blacks. It will be published for everybody."

My own feeling is that the author has covered too much ground too quickly, and has overstated his case. I do also feel, however, that he has opened a very fruitful subject of discussion, even if somewhat prematurely. Nothing will be lost by facing it now. The future may be lost by trying to ignore its implications.



# Books of The Times

BY ORVILLE PRESCOTT

WHEN Alyse Simpson was a girl growing up in the Swiss Alpine village of Hapsberg she lived her life to "fairy tales, poetry and Beethoven sonatas." She learned to speak five languages, to care passionately about such feminine fripperies as lacy nightgowns and to think that the good life necessarily included good conversation about the

arts. It was a nice, cultivated, cozy background for a sheltered lady, but the worst one imaginable for the pioneer life in the arid wastes of Kenya Colony in East Africa. Mrs. Simpson might have married her childhood sweetheart and lived uneventfully ever afterward among the mountains and the chalets and the goats and cattle. Instead she married John, an Englishman who took her off to Africa. The young couple

"Red Dust of Kenya" is an odd book, not a very well written one, a somewhat plaintive and querulous one. But it must be truer to the experience of many women than the cheerful, hearty, extroverted chronicles of the back-to-nature lovers. Mrs. Simpson didn't like bats in the rafters, frogs in the bedroom, fleas and dust everywhere. She hated seeing any living creature shot and she was bored stiff by hearing men talk about shooting. She resented hills without a tree, plains "that hissed at you in the heat of the day" and the risks and privations of camping out on safari. It gave her no pleasure at all to run away from a rhino or to find the tracks of a lion all around her tent.

## Speaks Up for Civilization

Alyse Simpson was obviously not an adaptable girl. She flinched from the squalor, brutality and primitive life of the African tropics, which others delight in. But her very incapacity is sympathetic. Heat and dust and loneliness and pythons devouring the chickens and mongooses sucking their blood do not appeal to everyone—not to many men and to fewer women. Mrs. Simpson has the frankness to speak up for the pleasures of civilization. She doesn't do so with much sense of humor or with any sense of the drama of her experience. It was all dreary to her.

And no wonder. She went eighteen months without seeing another white woman. She saw only three or four white men beside her husband. And all of these were mysterious Englishmen, silent, uncommunicative, uninterested in anything except hunting and next year's crops if the rains came. Mrs. Simpson was devoted to her husband; but she found it difficult to understand why he was satisfied with a mud-walled house with a sheet-iron roof and dirt floors. John didn't even know when his wife was frightened.

"As I climbed into bed the whole primeval forest peered formidably in at the slit of the canvas. Would it be my last night on earth, and would the fires which the cook was lighting all around the tents keep out the wilds? The near-by trees began to glimmer gently in the firelight. John came in to say good night. He slept in the adjoining tent, leaving his flaps wide open. My voice was hoarse as I said: 'Sleep well,' remembering that one should never admit fear if one was British! Expecting nothing, hoping nothing, having no particular emotion and above all fearing nothing, John walked out of my tent gently scratching his back."

So here is one perfectly understandable feminine way of looking at life in Kenya. Another way was described by another European lady who was in the colony at about the same time, Isak Dinesen. In her "Out of Africa," published

in 1938, she wrote of her love for Kenya and of the great beauty she found there. "De gustibus," said the Romans.

\*RED DUST IN KENYA. \*By Alyse Simpson. 282 pages. Crowell. \$3.50.



Alyse Simpson

went there shortly before World War I, I think (Mrs. Simpson is deliberately vague about dates), and remained there for an indefinite period. What it was like for a delicate, sentimental, cultivated lady without one ounce of pioneer spirit to live the pioneer life in the Saltlick Valley among the hyenas, lions and the Kikuyus is the theme of Mrs. Simpson's "Red Dust of Kenya."

## Hated Life in Kenya

Books by young brides dragged off to the wilderness by their adventurous husbands have been a publishing staple in recent years. And all of them are alike in their authors' enthusiasm for getting close to nature on the banks of the Yukon or the Orinoco. "Red Dust of Kenya" is unlike its predecessors in one important respect. Mrs. Simpson hated everything about Kenya and every moment she spent there.

On a 1,000-acre farm in "the private deserts where Englishmen like to dwell alone" she yearned for pine trees and snowy mountains and the ancient ways of her home where life was "same, familiar and safe."

"I lacked the spirit of adventure," says Mrs. Simpson. She longed for comfort, and John was unaware that anybody cared about such a thing. She hungered for beauty, and John never noticed beauty or the lack of it. He was too busy trying to keep his overdraft at the bank within reasonable limits, an impossible task in a land where droughts lasted for fourteen months.



**'Rebel Blood,' new  
novel, blasts KKK**

NEW YORK — "Rebel Blood," a socially significant novel about the Ku Klux Klan by R. Ray Foster, Rogers, Ark., World War II veteran, has just been published by the Exposition Press, 386 Fourth Ave. (\$3.50).

Rebel Blood is a perceptive novel of a courageous man and his struggle to help people plagued by their own twisted passions. It is a frank and vigorous narrative of a dying southern culture seen through the eyes of a young man.

Mr. Foster's book is not an attack on the South per se, but only that part of the region that is ugly and decadent.



26b 1954

REPORT- COMMISSION ON EVALUATION  
by-AMERICAN COUNCIL ON HUMAN RIGHTS

# ACHR Releases Its Evaluation

The American Council on Human Rights released today printed copies of the report of its Commission on Evaluation headed by Dr. Howard H. Long, dean of Central State College in Xenia, Ohio.

The ACHR is a cooperative program of six national fraternities and sororities. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.

It was created to mobilize the resources of its six-member organizations in a joint effort toward equality of justice and opportunity for all citizens.

*Sat. 12-18-54*  
THE EMPHASIS of the Council's program has been in the field of national legislation by the United States Congress and executive action by the President and the departments and agencies of the Federal Government.

The headquarters of the project is in Washington, D. C. Elmer W. Henderson is its national director.

The council has been in the forefront of efforts to obtain a national fair employment practices bill; safeguards for minorities in housing and other social legislation; the elimination of segregation from the armed services and other important developments in recent years.

MEMBERS OF the Evaluation Commission in addition to Dr. Long were Enos E. Andrews of Philadelphia, Kappa Alpha Psi; Mrs. Vivian E. Cook of Baltimore, Alpha Kappa Alpha; Miss Patricia Roberts of Washington, Delta Sigma Theta; James N. Saunders, Washington, Alpha Phi Alpha; Mrs. Josephine C. Smith of Washington, Zeta Phi Beta, and Mrs. Lorraine A. Williams of Washington, Sigma Gamma Rho.

Dr. Paul Cook of Miner



## Book Review

**THE RIGHT TO LIVE**  
BY THOMAS P. WARD

(PAGEANT)

Here is a story that tells of the courageous struggle of a young Negro boy, the eighth of nine children of a poor Southern family, against the squalor and ignorance of his environment.

When Sammy's mother died, he was too young to understand what death was, and as he grew older, the memory of what his mother had been to him faded and grew dim. Reality was important to Sammy. Lomax. Reality was the fact that all around him there was poverty, superstition, sickness and ignorance. But Sammy decided to seize life in his own two strong hands and to face its problems squarely and honestly.

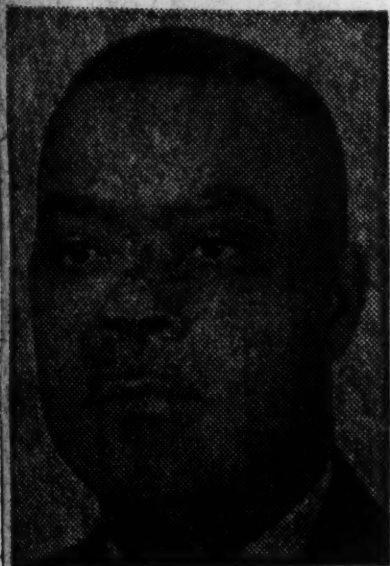
The role that the Fessenden Academy played in Sammy's life was an important one, and the impressions which he received at the Protestant parochial school were to remain with him all his life and affect the decisions which he made.

THE RIGHT TO LIVE is a deeply moving novel which introduces the reader to a cast of characters who will not soon be forgotten. Cleavie Brown, Sammy's pretty schoolmate, Mr. Wiley, the stern principal, and Mr. Murph, the unjust teacher, are believable characters.

Thomas Playfair Ward was born in Marion County, Florida. He is the pastor of the St. Joseph Methodist Church, the author of several books, and currently resides in Jacksonville. He received his education at Clarin College. Reverend Ward received his lifetime recipient of the Thune Cookman College Award for his outstanding work in the field of Religion and Literature. He was also granted the Award Encyclopedia Britannica from Chicago University. For some time the author edited and published Torch Light, a religious monthly magazine.



## Professor's Book Among Top Fifteen



Dr. C. L. SPELLMAN

NEW YORK—The Exposition Press, Inc., publisher of a recent book, "Rough Steps On My Stairway," by Dr. C. L. Spellman, has ranked this book among the fifteen best books which it published in 1953 and nominated it to Columbia University for the coveted Pulitzer Prize in autobiography.

Dr. Spellman's book presents a new and strikingly different approach in autobiography writing. While it deals intimately with his life, its main concern is to tell a story of Negro education from point of view of his own education from the first grade through the university to the doctor's degree and his experiences as an educator and an administrator in Negro education.

The book chronicles a fascinating era in Negro education. Dr. Spellman is director of student teaching at North Carolina College at Durham.



26b 1954

RUNAWAY BLACK

**BOOK**  
**REVIEWS**  
by  
**GERTRUDE MARTIN**

Marsten; Gold Medal Books, Fawcett Publications, Inc.; New York, N. Y.: 1954: 25 cents

For the last three weeks (including this one), we have mentioned here original novels published in pocket-book format, all of which have definite merit. This is rather unusual because, for the most part, pocket book publishers limit their output to reprints and many of the original novels that are published are definitely mediocre, and many of them over-emphasize sex.

"Runaway Black" by Richard Marsten, the third of the books mentioned noted above, is the story of Johnny Lane who is in flight from the first page to the last. In the beginning it is simply a fear of running <sup>from</sup> of the law that keeps Johnny on the move although he is innocent of the murder of which he is accused. The fact that he was known to the police only increased his danger and made his resolve to hide even stronger. 7-31-54

The plot of "Runaway Black" is obvious but the author brings to it an insight that gives it added interest. He understands the dilemma of his character and shows the forces pitted. There is a sense of hopelessness from the very beginning which gives the book a tragic tone. The scene in the sewer is well handled although it is reminiscent of Ralph Ellison's "The Invisible Man" and of a short story by Richard Wright, the name of which escapes me for the moment.

Despite its faults "Runaway Black" is a swiftly paced, sympathetic account of one man's flight. In the end it is clear that he is running not just from the police on this one occasion but always and everywhere from the life that is his.

"Runaway Black" by Richard



26b 1954

# Magic and Secret Rites in French Guinea

THE SACRED FOREST

The Guelemlai  
or forest messengers



Wenilegagui,  
the bird man

James Brook Remond

P. 12

new york ny  
**THE**

An initiate dances after her return  
from the Sacred Wood






Sum 10-24-54

# SACRED FOREST

by PIERRE-DOMINIQUE GAISSEAU




Undergoing the  
ritual tattooing

As suspenseful as a ghost story, as packed with tension and excitement as a melodrama, this extraordinary book is a true account of the expedition of four daring French explorers into the wilds of upper Guinea, in French West Africa. The goal of these men was admission to the fiercely guarded secret rites of a tribe that still practices fetishism, blood-curdling male and female initiation ceremonies, and gory sacrifices. From the dangers they faced, and the painful initiations they suffered, has come this authentic, spine-tingling record of primitive and mysterious Negro rites never before seen or described by a white man.

*Illustrated with thirty-two unusual photographs  
by members of the expedition*

*\$5.00 at all bookstores*

ALFRED A. KNOPF, *Publisher*



Okobuzogui,  
secret incarnation  
of the Great  
Spirit



# BOOK REVIEW

By JOHN K. HUTCHENS

SATCHMO

## Old Satchmo, King of Jazz, Still Tooting His Sweet Horn

SATCHMO. By Louis Armstrong. Prentice-Hall.  
240 pages. \$3.50.

REAL sharp cats know that the greatest living trumpeter can hit 280 high Cs and then move on up into the stratosphere. They also know how Louis Satchmo Armstrong can hit the keys of that typewriter that goes on tour with him, along with his golden horn? Here now are Satchmo's memories of long ago in his native New Orleans, and while even non-cats can guess that the story has had a little editorial touching up here and there, the note all through it is true and good and his own—like one of those high Cs.

### It's Just There

Not only true and good but as unclouded a reflection of an artist's personality, as candid a picture of what made him what he is, as you will find in many a more stately work. There isn't much talk here about the music that is in him. ("Man, he once said, in his laughing growl, 'when you got to ask what is it, you'll never get to know.'") But there's a wonderful lot here about how the music came out, and the scenes and people among whom his art was born.

Put on that old recording of "Muskrat Ramble," then, and hear from Satchmo how it all came to be.

Observe, first, that not every line of it is for the squeamish. The art of Louis Armstrong—and Joe Oliver, Kid Ory, Jelly Roll Morton and all the rest of that great company—didn't originate in the Juilliard School. It came up through the raucous honky-tonks, with their audiences of gamblers, pimps and girls, where the razors flashed and the talk was as violent as the laughter was loud. Satchmo liked them all, and they, obviously, liked him. In a town where the pieman called his customers with a bugle, and the junkman with a horn, they knew an artist when they heard one.



Louis (Satchmo) Armstrong

SATCHMO. My Life in New Orleans. By Louis Armstrong. Prentice-Hall, New York. 240 pages. \$3.50.

Louis Armstrong, the greatest single figure jazz has known, is a legend, and he's not even dead. He is by no means dead. At 54, he's still blowing up a storm, singing like crazy, packing 'em in wherever he turns up. He has just turned up in the first volume of his autobiography, and in it the old master of the cornet (trumpet now) confidently predicts he'll "live to be a hundred or more." Amen.

"Satchmo" (short, of course, for Satchelmouth; in New Orleans they called him Dippermouth) tells an inspiring story of a kid whose passion for music pulled him along the hard road from the Crescent City's "Back o' Town" to international fame.

Louis always wanted to make a bigger noise than anybody else, but on New Year's Eve in 1913 when he shot a pistol into the air in celebration of the coming year, the cops grabbed him and hustled him off to the New Orleans Waifs' Home.

Probably it was a good thing, for there a Prof. Peter Davis taught him to play the bugle for formal occasions, and then the cornet in the Home's brass band. Little Louis, just barely in his teens, did what all the adult jazzmen incubating in New Orleans did.

He helped perform a juvenile version of basic New Orleans jazz. He played for funerals and basket parties; he marched up and down the city's streets and parks. He played for "peanuts," but it finally earned him a better living.

Louis then began to play the honky-tonks, one after another, until 1917, when he and a drummer, Joe Lindsay, organized a little band. They got all of Joe (King) Oliver's extra work.

Joe finally left town, journeyed up the river to Chicago, a trip that started jazz on its way to all the other cities in the U. S. Louis took his place with the band Oliver left behind, blowing for trombonist-leader Kid Ory. He later played the riverboats with Fate Marable's crew.

When old Dipper moved up the great river to Chicago he made the biggest noise any instrumentalist ever made in jazz; he shaped the new music and made it a legitimate art form instead of just parlor entertainment in New Orleans' houses of joy.

Even today, nobody can listen to his horn without being appreciative of the strength and clarity of his tone, the drive of his beat, the resourcefulness of his melodic invention. All this and his marvelous gravel-throated singing mark him.

Jazz fans and musicians will want this book. They'll want to know how Louis felt about the great musicians of the early century.



LOUIS ARMSTRONG.

Oliver, Ory, Johnny and Baby Dodds, Honore Dutrey, Buddy Bolden, Sidney Bechet, Bunk Johnson, and so on. But there is far more here than an account of Louis' development as a musician.

There's a completely uninhibited story of what it was like to grow up on the fringe of a notorious red-light district, where life was cheap, savage, brutal, and there was always a struggle for existence.

It was hardly a dull life, though, and it has all been set down in loving simplicity and in a sort of untutored eloquence.

About as funny as anything in books is the account of the night Louis' mother took him on a tour of the city's saloons, determined

to show him how to hold his liquor, only to find her son capable of drinking her under the table.  
RAYMOND LOWERY.



# Straight From the Trumpet's Mouth

**SATCHMO: My Life in New Orleans.**  
By Louis Armstrong. Illustrated.  
240 pp. New York: Prentice Hall.  
\$3.50.

By CLEVELAND AMORY

"I LOVED all those people and they loved me. The good ones and the bad ones all thought that Little Louis (as they called me) was O.K. \* \* \* I stayed in my place. I respected everybody and I was never rude or sassy \* \* \*. I am still a great believer and I go to church whenever I get the chance \* \* \*. Those brass bands could play a funeral march so sweet and with so much soul you could actually feel it inside \* \* \*. After the brother was six feet under ground our Onward Brass Band would strike up one of those good old tunes like 'Didn't He Ramble' and all the people would leave their worries behind \* \* \*. If you ever tasted my mother, Mary Ann's jumbalaya and you lick your fingers my name is not Louis Satchmo Daniel Armstrong."

There you have it, straight from the trumpet's mouthpiece, and in a fall when we are going to have to go help to all sorts of slick, obviously ghosted autobiographies, usually with

Mr. Amory's most recent book dealing with the American scene was "Last Resorts"

an equally obvious axe to grind, it is refreshing indeed to dig at least one unpretentious, rough-hewn, honest-to-badness memoir—one which doesn't grind anything except the incredible story of a man who rose from the Colored Waifs' Home for Boys in Back o' Town, New Orleans, to become the world's greatest jazz musician.

Louis Armstrong intended to blow the whole story of his life, but after having blown, with apparently very little assistance, some 240 pages—which

him up to his first taste of the big time—he took a break, and his publishers took a book

In many ways it isn't. The story of playing the blues in a red-light district gets off to a shooting start (Louis was born on the Fourth of July, 1900, when "pretty nearly everybody celebrates with pistols, shot-guns or any other weapon that's

handy"): and from that time on there are no holds (or words) barred. Disorganized and at times inconsistent, it is less a book than a literary jam session with a cast of characters which include King Ory, Joe Oliver, Buddy Bolden, Bunk Johnson, Jelly Roll Morton, Black Benny, Slippers, Nicodemus, Oak Gasper, Papa Gar, Mutt Carey, Red Cornelius, George Bo'hog, Sore Dick, Fast Mail, Boogus, Garbee, Zoo French, Cheeky Black, Funky Butt, Zutty Singleton, Red Bud, Sister Pop, Sweet Child and Mary Jack the Bear. Some of these, Louis tells us, hit the big time with "Roast Beef" (tuxedo) and "friebies" (free meals), others ate nothing but "poor boy" sandwiches and were "broke" than the Ten Commandments; some ended up in fights "marked up like a scoreboard" and others, like Little Head

cas and Cocaine Buddy, "died natural deaths of T. B."

At the same time, there is an extraordinary quality in this book which makes one wish that the publishers had not taken it from Louis' hands so abruptly but had induced him to continue and write his whole story. For surely Louis and his Storyville are something not only for the jazz but for the social historians.

Even with what we have however, underneath all the sordidness, there is a code which comes through like the beat of Louis' Onward Brass Band. Here is Louis' mother who teaches him his "mother-wit." ("She was glad to say hello to everybody and she always held her head up. She never envied anybody.") And here is Black Benny, "a man among men." ("One day he saw some big fellows sapping up a group of little kids, and he jumped off his wagon and really made a stew out of the bullies.") And here, too, are Louis' girls, Irene "as raggedy as a bowl of stew" and Daisy who wore "sides" (artificial hips) to give herself a better figure. ("A man has to know something or he will always get hell. But Daisy did not even read a newspaper or anything enlightening.")

And here, finally, told without any bitterness, is the story of the tenseness of life between "ofay" (white) and "Spades" (colored). Louis' whole teen-age life is concerned with bringing up a little boy named Clarence. One day Clarence falls off the porch. ("The average child probably would have gotten killed, but for Clarence the fall only set him back behind the average child.") Clarence, Louis tells us matter of factly, was the child of his teen-age cousin and who invited



From the jacket drawing by Robert J. Lee for "Satchmo."

# 'Ole Satchmo' Drops Chicago, Ill. 'Gravel' Voice, Picks Sat. 10-9-54 P. 6 Up Pen And Triumphs

"There were many different kinds of people and instruments to inspire me to carry on with my music when I was a boy. I always loved music, and it did not matter what the instrument was or who played it as long as the music was good. I used to hear some of the finest music in the world listening to the barroom quartets who hung around the saloons with a cold can of beer in their hands, singing up a breeze while they passed the can around. I thought I was really somebody when I got so I could hang around with those fellows and sing with them. When I was a teenager those old-timers let me sing with them and carry the lead, bless their hearts. Even in those days they thought I had something on the ball as a ragtime singer, which is what hot swing singing is today."

You guessed it — that's Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong talking it up in the current issue of Saga magazine which features Louis' autobiography, "Satchmo — My Life in New Orleans."

And that's what Satchmo's story is all about — his life in New Orleans and the "many different kinds of people" who influenced his rise from the honky-tonks of Storyville to the cafes, nightclub and cabarets of New York, Chicago, San Francisco and cities throughout Europe. People like Buddy Bolden, Bunk Johnson, Joe Oliver, Emanuel Perez who inspired a young boy who had a natural talent for "blowing up a storm."



**There Is Only One Race**

Editor, The Advertiser:

On the lengthy letter of Dr. A. D. Cowles in *Grandma's* column, I'd like to comment. In the first place there is only one race — Human — of mankind *Homo Sapiens*. Dr. M. W. De Laubenfels, University of Hawaii and Prof. W. M. Krogman, University of Pennsylvania and many anthropologists jointly agree to the same.

In *Information Please Almanac* is an article written by the latter and I quote in part: "(1) there are no pure races; (2) there are no inferior or superior races." There is however, what is commonly called racial "stocks."

From the book, *Schools In The South*, edited by the Southern Regional Council in Atlanta:

"In the South, where intermarriage is opposed by both law and custom, integration in schools or other public institutions is hardly likely to change the existing pattern. The fear of intermarriage is largely irrational, since there can never be a law or a court decision forcing persons to marry against their will. Marriage is and will remain a matter of personal choice. There is much truth in the saying that if school integration was left to children there would be no problem; children are born without prejudice and only acquire it through constant exposure to the attitude of grownups."

Mongrelization has and always will exist in the genus or species called *Homo Sapiens*. One has only to look at the so-called Negro racial stock for immediate proof—far different from the few who were brought from Africa. Why? The answer is mongrelization. Does the Negro rant and rave? No. The only thing he wants is equality.

Segregation on the basis of racial stock is pure tomfoolery. If in the South bi-racial education were demolished, its educational system would be greater, illiteracy would be less and the unity between its people would be greater than any other section of this great country of ours. Let's be sensible and approach our problem of racial integration as loyal Americans, hurting no one, helping all.

DAN CASBY.

Montgomery.



# "SCHOOL SEGREGATION" DECISION PUBLISHED

CHAPEL HILL, N. C. — "The School Segregation Decision," a discussion of the United States Supreme Court's May 17 decision and the legality of various plans to meet the consequences of the Court's ruling, has just been published by the Institute of Government at the University of North Carolina.

The book, written by James C. N. Paul with a foreword by Albert Coates, director of the Institute, analyzes the importance of questions still to be answered by the Court in its next decision, outlines alternatives which the Court might permit, and discusses the significance of the Court's suggestion that it might be persuaded to allow a "gradual adjustment" to its non-segregation ruling.

Considerable space is also given to constitutional problems inherent in plans which might provide for continued segregation by resorting to systems of state-supported private schools, to tuition grants or to gerrymandering of school districts.

The book is a legal analysis of the issues confronting Southern schools. It was written, however, for both lawyers and non-lawyers. "The problems analyzed in the book are common to all Southern states," Director Coates said. "The book was written with the hope that it would be useful to persons wanting to understand the full import of the school segregation problem."



# Study Finds Schools Ending Segregation

WASHINGTON, Nov. 19—

Community efforts to end race segregation in public schools generally have succeeded and a generation hence the nation's schools may have completed the job, a Ford Foundation study reported today.

The study, "Schools in Transition," is based on spot surveys of school integration programs in twenty-four communities from New Jersey to Arizona. It was financed by the Ford Foundation's Fund for the Advancement of Education, and edited by Prof. Robin M. Williams Jr. and Mrs. Margaret W. Ryan, both of Cornell University.

Summing up the findings of researchers in the twenty-four communities, the editors concluded that " \* \* \* where desegregation has been tried the typical outcome has been its eventual acceptance."

They found that the ease of transition varied widely from community to community, with some resisting the change more than others. But they said "the direction of change is clearly toward the acceptance of educational integration in public schools."

The editors noted that while no public schools have been integrated in the South, many of the communities involved in their study were in border cities with a "Southern exposure," whose problems might resemble those of Southern communities.

As the South begins what undoubtedly will be a gradual and uneven movement toward integration, there will be some incidents of personal conflict and name-calling—even instances of disturbance \* \* \* they said.

But they concluded that unless experience thus far has been "wholly misleading . . . a generation from now the people of the United States may be able with some pride to look back on this period as a time of successful transition, accomplished in a characteristically American way."

Their book, published by the University of North Carolina Press, is the second in a series of four resulting from the Education Fund's study of the nation's bi-racial school system. "The Negro and the Schools" by Harry S. Ashmore, executive editor of

The Arkansas Gazette, published last spring, was the first volume. It summarized basic findings in the present work.

The new study may become an important handbook for educators and others concerned with school integration problems. The editors said that while experiences of each of the twenty-four communities were unique in some ways, "there are some common principles that apply to many situations, if the local decision makers can look deeply enough to discern them."

The study was made before the current school year, and does not cover the latest desegregation steps in such places as Baltimore, Md., Washington, D. C., West Virginia, and other "border" states.

## Communities Scattered

Communities covered in the study are Cincinnati, Ohio; Elkhart, Evansville, Gary, Indianapolis, Jeffersonville, New Albany, and South Bend, Ind.; Cairo, Ill.; Atlantic City, Burlington, Camden, Mount Holly and Salem, N. J.; Clovis, Las Cruces, Rosewell, Alamogordo, Carlsbad and Hobbs, N. M.; and Douglas, Nogales, Phoenix and Tucson, Ariz.

In all, local action was taken in recent years to end segregated schooling, either under state laws requiring nonsegregation or by local initiative under laws permitting segregation.

While integration is not yet complete in many of the communities, the editors found that transition to nonsegregated schools took place in most of the twenty-four "with a smoothness and lack of open friction which typically surprised officials and teachers." They reported violence in only one town, Cairo, Ill., yet "even in this instance no blood was shed."

Threats of riots, boycotts and withdrawals from schools were "seldom carried out." In Camden, N. J., appointment of a Negro principal to a largely white school led fifteen pupils to switch to a parochial school but by mid-term he had become "so popular \* \* \* that all except three \* \* \* returned \* \* \*"

[In Camden, Joseph Ragone, secretary of the Board of Education, said the city had six Negro principals and he knew of "no incident where parents have protested the appointment \* \* \* to the Board of Education." He said any direct protest to a principal's office "would have come to our attention, if it had occurred." John Hope II of Fisk University's Race Relations Department, who made the spot survey in Camden, replied he had got the story "on a confidential basis" from "sources I consider

## SCHOOLS IN TRANSITION: COMMUNITY EXPERIENCES IN DESEGREGATION

qualified." He said, "I'll stand with the report."]

The study found that in cities like Tucson, Ariz., where a firm policy of rapid integration was laid down, things went more smoothly than were there was hesitation and "gradualism."

"In general a clear-cut policy, administered with understanding but also with resolution, seems to have been most effective in accomplishing desegregation with a minimum of difficulty," the editors said.

SCHOOLS IN TRANSITION: Community Experiences in Desegregation, by Robin M. Williams Jr. and Margaret W. Ryan (University of North Carolina, \$3).



# Desegregation Transition Will Be Theme Of Book

## Studies Show

"The studies show that where integration has been tried, professional standards soon take precedence over previous racial attitudes.

"A tendency frequently observed in communities where desegregation aroused initial opposition was a lack of communication between white and Negro leaders . . ."

One significant point was the finding that, despite first resentments, anger and bitterness, few communities could sustain the tensions over a long period of time.

"Active resistance," the writers concluded, "gave way to passive resistance, and that in turn became relative indifference or positive acceptance."

## Contention Invalid

The contention of southern pro-segregationists that mingling in schools would lead to joint outside social activities was held invalid.

While students in the 24 communities conducted school activities together, the authors discovered, the tendency in after-school hours was for the two racial groups to withdraw from each other socially.

Even at school dances, the book relates, there was no effort by white or negro students to cross the color line tacitly accepted in the community.

Unfortunately, the book went to press before the experiences of such southern border cities as Baltimore, Washington and Milford, Del., and various communities in West Virginia and Missouri, could be documented.

However, the patterns established in the book were sustained in these communities.

## White Student Strikes

Baltimore, Washington and Milford underwent white student strikes. Where school officials acted firmly and were backed by public pressure, tensions were eased and pupils returned.

Whether the findings of the book can be applied generally to the South, especially the deep South, is subject for debate.

Many southern communities

have Negro populations running up to 80 per cent and have state officials antagonistic to integration and public opinion that is strongly pro-segregation.

Williams is professor of sociology at Cornell University. He is a native of North Carolina. Margaret Ryan is now working for the Texas Research League at Austin. Their research was financed chiefly by the Fund for the Advancement of Education, a part of the Rockefeller Foundation.

## THE WORLD OF BOOKS Toward Integration

*SCHOOLS IN TRANSITION*, edited by Robin M. Williams, Jr., and Margaret W. Ryan (University of North Carolina Press, \$3).

This second of the series of studies sponsored by the Ford Foundation's Fund for the Advancement of Education continues the excellent service of providing objective facts on the question of segregated schools. Like Harry S. Ashmore's "The Negro and the Schools," it argues no viewpoint. It should have a cooling effect on a subject where there is far too much heat.

This study deals with the recent experiences of 24 communities in six states bordering the South "as they have moved from racially segregated toward integrated public schools." The experiences are case studies that should be very enlightening to the entire South.

The communities studied are alike in that all had school segregation problems. They all had large minority populations, varying from about 5 per cent to nearly 50 per cent. They all had, or have, segregated schools. In all, there has been adopted a definite policy of moving toward integration. In all, desegregation has been eventually accepted.

But there the similarity just about ends. The rates at which the transition has been or is being effected, the public reaction and public cooperation have varied widely.

And in those facts, we believe, one may be able to find guideposts for all the South. The community approach should be emphasized.

That, however, is the reviewer's own conclusion. The book gives no advice and makes no appeals. Its impartiality, persistently maintained, is one of its best qualities.—J. F. ROTHERMEL

*Advertiser*  
Note: A book by two native southerners will be published tomorrow as a study in how desegregation was carried out in two dozen communities where Negro and white school children previously had been educated separately. Here is a review of that book by a reporter who recently spent several weeks studying the segregation in the deep South.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20 (AP)—Two educators will publish a sort of text book for the South tomorrow — 24 examples showing that school desegregation can work, at least under certain conditions.

The book, "Schools in Transition," obviously is intended as a practical answer to the problems of the South pro-segregationists that any effort to integrate schools racially will fail—perhaps blood-

Sum. 11-21-54  
sociologists Robin M. Williams, Jr. and Margaret W. Ryan found: "Transition from segregation to non-segregation . . . took place in most of the 24 communities with a smoothness and lack of open friction which typically surprised officials and teachers."

## No Bloodshed

In only one town, Cairo, Ill., did the authors find violence—and that produced no bloodshed.

Significantly the authors, both native southerners, found the change from a segregated school system to an integrated one came most easily in communities with a record of inter-racial cooperation and where school officials laid down a plan and acted firmly.

The 24 communities studied were characterized by the authors as having a "southern exposure" and are located in six states from New Jersey to New Mexico.

Generally, the authors found:

"Pupil-to-pupil friction between whites and Negroes generally has been slight. A reiterated comment from nearly all communities was that if the parents did not interfere, the children got along all right.

"At the teacher-student level, the children became not so many Negroes and whites as children who are to be taught.



# New Books

## TIMELY BOOK

### Case Histories In Desegregation

*Send to Review*  
*Nov. 11-27-54 D.C.E.*  
**SCHOOLS IN TRANSITION. Community Experiences in Desegregation.** Edited by Robin M. Williams Jr. and Margaret W. Ryan. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press. Indexed. 272 pages. \$3.

This is a timely book that should help to dispel some of the fears and hysteria that have beset us since the recent Supreme Court decision on school segregation.

Representing the work of 45 scholars, this is a study of case histories of 24 communities in states bordering the South on all sides. It is a record of agonizing adjustment and even of violence as these states and communities sought to find the answer to their problem.

The book sets aside the idea that the segregation problem has been exclusively that of the South. None of the communities here studied are Southern, but the patterns of thought and social custom are quite similar. The communities discussed are in such widely scattered areas as Illinois, Ohio, New Jersey and New Mexico. The problems, not yet completely solved, cover more than a century of controversy.

after community in the processes of desegregation and of resistance to it. Each situation is unique in some ways—never in all ways. For this reason, the lessons of experience in any one community never can be applied in detail to another community."

In the final analysis, the book suggests, the solution must be found in the local communities—by the local citizens who operate and support the schools. As Owen J. Roberts suggests in a quote in the book: "These people need and deserve all the help they can get, and one of their greatest needs is for objective facts which will guide them toward wise decisions in the face of difficult problems."

\*\*\*

ONLY RECENTLY in the city of Cairo, Ill., race riots as bloody as any in the South in recent years resulted from efforts at desegregation. Nowhere has the problem been completely solved but almost everywhere it has been a gradual process leading up to the present. The authors conclude:

"Variety seems to be the keynote; local responsibility and control in the public schools are again vividly illustrated . . . Yet there seem to be underlying similarities and uniformities in the experiences of community

THIS BOOK is an objective study and it will be of major importance if it contributes to a sane and rational approach to a difficult emotional, economic and social problem. As many leaders are pointing out, the issues have to be met in each individual community as they have had to be met in the communities studied in this book.

"For years to come," the book correctly says, "communities here and there across the United States will be dealing with complexities of segregation and desegregation resulting from con-

## SCHOOLS IN TRANSITION. Community Experiences in Desegregation

tingent factors over which the school administration has little or no control. . . .

"In some respects, every community going through the process in the future will meet the detailed problems in its own individual way."

In no way does this book suggest that the solution will be easy. That it will be a lengthy process is proved by the experiences of the communities studied in the survey covered by this book.

—GEORGE BOSWELL.



Ab 1954

## Award Winner Married Quietly

NEWARK, N. J. — Author Mary Elizabeth Vroman and former publicist D. Parke Gibson were married quietly July 10 at St. James AME Church here.

A close friend of Miss Vroman, Miss Mattie Langford of Montgomery, Ala., was the maid of honor. William R. Hyatt, research chemist for Philip Morris Cigarettes, was the best man. She was given in marriage by her aunt, Miss Annie Robinson, of Brooklyn, N. Y.

A few intimate friends and relatives were present at the wedding performed by the Rev. Eustace Blake.

The marriage consummated a close friendship for the pair, who met while Miss Vroman was in Philadelphia late last summer for a speaking engagement.

Miss Vroman is the author of the Christopher Award-winning short story, "See How They Run," which became the M-G-M movie, "Bright Road." She has also written other magazine stories and plays.

Gibson is a former partner of the Philadelphia public relations firm of Laws-Gibson Associates. The firm gained national attention when it was awarded the Old Gold Cigarette account, after only a few months in business. He is now with the sales force of Interstate United Newspapers, national publishers representatives, of New York.

The couple plan to reside in New York City.

SEE HOW THEY RUN



# No One Refuses When the Poro Asks

SEVEN DAYS TO LOMALAND. By Esther Warner. Illustrated with woodcuts by Jo Dendel. 269 pp. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company. \$3.50.

By MICHAEL CLARK

A TREK in the primitive back country of Liberia is the subject of this engaging book by a young American sculptor, whose interest in African art sent him to the source for deeper understanding. Miss Warner is already known for her previous book, "New Song in a Strange Land." "If some of the experts have seemed to generalize too much about 'peoples,'" she says in her foreword, "it is because matters are too urgent for them to take time to know persons, except as best they can in hasty interviews." This book is essentially about persons, and its author deserves thanks for bringing her readers closer to the tribal African than most of them, probably, have ever been before.

It is unlikely that Miss Warner would have gone to Loma country if she had not by chance got involved in the destiny of a young Loma tribesman in her service. On one occasion the boy (named Comma) was sent to his village with fifty dollars (a fabulous sum) to buy a chimpanzee for an animal-breeding farm in Florida. He returned three months later without money or beast but with a blackened name, for the suspicion of theft hung over him.

Miss Warner manages within the rather narrow scope of her book to come to grips with one of the central problems of Africa today—that of the tribal African caught in the toils of the modern world. Comma was mission-trained and got the "wants" from the white people. "I would rather have craw-craw [a contagious parasite skin disease]" the steward Johnny commented. "It only eats people on the outside." But as Comma wanted to train on the Gold Coast to be a doctor, there was nothing for it but to clear his name. And to do so he would have to submit to trial by ordeal in his own village.

So the caravan set out—Esther Warner, Comma, the headman Zabogi and his "frisky" wife Tama, Johnny and fifteen boys "who had clamored and contested to walk through the rain-drenched jungle for a week or more with forty-pound loads atop." It was at times a fearsome journey for the natives. Nothing puts a tribal African's teeth on edge so much as the forest darkness and the myriads of sinister beings that haunt it. Late one night the voice of the Big Devil was heard ("like someone blowing across the top of a bottle"). He had come to catch initiates for the sacred Poro bush school.

Comma cleared his name by snatching a brass ring from the bottom of a cauldron of hot palm oil, but in the end he was claimed by his tribe and the Poro cult of his ancestors. Miss Warner learned that Comma had relinquished the chimpanzee to the Poro for sacrifice. "No man can refuse what the Poro asks."

The transition attempted by Comma had been too abrupt, but though he stayed in his village he was determined that his children should get "white learning." "When that time comes," he said, "a boy won't have to decide for one or the other, white ways or tribe ways. Zabogi will be chief and I will be the blacksmith, and we will know what our fathers did not know, that a Loma can be both."



# From Separate To Mixed Schools In 25 Cities Subject Of Recent Pamphlet

*Journal and Guide* p. 15 Norfolk, Va.

A timely and encouraging picture of how many communities have successfully ended segregation is given in a new pamphlet *Segregation and the Schools* summarizing the Ashmore Report which is published jointly by the Public Affairs Committee, 22 East 80th street, New York, N. Y., and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The pamphlet carries an introduction by two of the South's leading educators, Dr. Frank Graham, former president of the University of North Carolina, and Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, president of Morehouse College, Atlanta.

STUDIES OF some twenty-five communities which had made or were making the transition from segregated Negro and white schools to integrated schools revealed that "it wasn't as bad as they thought it would be."

"The Ashmore Report, as an objective appraisal," the pamphlet points out, "took no partisan stand on segregation. The facts presented in the Report, however, are useful to people in every part of the country who are concerned about bi-racial education."

*dat: 7-10-54*  
THEY POINT to many things we can do—as parents, voters, club members, teachers, church workers, and so on—to help our public school administrators develop a calm, sensible, and democratic method of carrying out desegregation.

the recent Supreme Court decision. "By 1954," the pamphlet reminds us, "universities had opened their doors to Negroes in all but five states . . . It is impossible to fix the exact number of Negroes who have entered formerly all-white

institutions. The best available estimate is 1,000 to 2,000 during regular sessions. If summer school attendance is taken into account the total figure is probably three to four times as large."

"THE ATTITUDE of faculties toward the new Negro students has been generally sympathetic. There have been few cases of rudeness or antagonism. . . Official discriminations against Negro students have now disappeared, except for occasional special housing arrangements. . . The new policies of the state universities have aroused remarkably little political issue."

New Jersey, Indiana, and Illinois have lately taken measures to root out segregation in the public schools where it has been practiced in defiance of the law. In other states communities have moved voluntarily to desegregate their schools. These actions are part of the general trend toward integration that has followed in the wake of World War II.

"NO TWO communities are exactly alike," the pamphlet reports "and no two of those studied went about integrating their schools in exactly the same way. In general, the communities with small Negro populations and good race relations have gone the whole way at a stroke . . . In every instance of this kind reported, the transition was rated a complete success."

"Most communities, however, have taken the more roundabout way of gradual integration," the pamphlet declares. "The gradual approach has been criticized on several counts. Some school officials believe that it makes for more, rather than less, public resistance . . . When policies remain unsettled for some time, the pressures

mount . . . But wherever there has been an active and well-planned program to sell integration to the community, it has succeeded."

"And success has come most easily where there is a history of cooperation across group lines," it adds. "State laws and regulations can play an important part in the shaping of local school systems. But the final outcome rests with the skill and good faith of community leaders."



## Reprint Of DuBois Book Is Set

THAT W. E. B. DuBois is one of this nation's towering literary giants is so well conceded as to make its reiteration pure understatement. Henry James, on one of his infrequent trips to the U. S. in the early 1900's, said that Dr. DuBois' "Souls of Black Folk" was the "only book written by an American since anti-bellum days worth reading."

Thus the reprinting of DuBois' "The Suppression of the African Slave Trade to the United States of America" (Social Science Press: N. Y., 325 pages, \$5.95) is a singular literary event. The book has been out of print for 60 years, even though it is considered the definitive work on the subject).

Published as the first volume in the Harvard Historical series in 1899, the book was written by DuBois at the age of 24. And at that age, he was very much a prophet. His observations, written in the 19th century, are as fresh and as challenging as though they were written last week.



# The Book Shelf

By MARCUS H. BOULWARE

**SOUTHERN ACCENT** by William T. Polk, (New York: William Morrow & Company, 425 Fourth Avenue, 1953) 264 pages. Price \$4.

For a number of years, I have done research on the issues of the race problem in the South as expressed by orators and writers the country over. My attention was recently called to



DR. BOULWARE

Southern Accent. Why I had never heard of it before, I do not know. But upon reading it, I know that I have found something new in the South by Associate Editor William T. Polk of the Greensboro (N. C.) Daily News. Mr. Polk is a southerner whose history includes attendance at the University of North Carolina, service in World War I as a second lieutenant, study of law at Harvard, practice of law in North Carolina, and as newspaper associate editor.

Satisfied that the author of this book was capable of writing without undue prejudice, I was encouraged to begin my reading upon seeing the words of Gerald W. Johnson who said of Southern Accent: "Poetic, sardonic, erudite and wise, this analysis of the South is above all healthy."

IF I WERE permitted to make only one statement, it would be: "Southern Accent" takes apart the South and re-assembles it as has never been done before." Editor Polk says: "The South without tears or pedantry is what I have tried to get in this book. The accent is southern but not unintelligible. Although I have tried to write about the area truthfully in the main, I must admit that I have on occasion let my natural love of the picturesque divert me from the dull path of veracity. Sometimes I have stretched things. But mostly I have tried to get at the truth, and that is difficult enough, whether for a southerner; the South is my land and its people are my people."

What stands out most in this book is the author's conclusion that there are two quite separate Souths, the old agricultural society with its feudal overtones and a new, aggressive, industrialized brand (Grady called it "The

New South"). He understands both and writes about them with vigor charm and sympathy that will be hard to resist by southerners, northerners, and Negroes.

THE BOOK includes four parts: I. What is the South; II. What is the South doing?; III. What is the South thinking?; IV. What is the South Becoming? Mr. Polk takes past and present literature and makes it reflect the changing attitudes of a proud and interesting people. In giving his impressions of the typical novel of the South, he "makes wonderful" nonsense." One writer says: "When he works over the moonlight and roses of other years he is just funny."

The author discusses the age-old problem of the racial dilemma from the viewpoints of equality versus excellence. He points out that the Negro wants everything the white man wants, and that the white South is not comfortable in insisting on segregation in the face of a worldwide demand

for equality.

CONCERNING the exact issue of the racial problem, the author begins by saying what it is not; and then by discussing what is it? in a bold, forthright manner. "It (the race problem) is," he says, "the problem of the co-existence of two races, or rather cultured peoples, in close proximity to a comparatively primitive people. The South balks at exchanging its European-American culture for an African brand, or of diluting it too much." Editor Polk offers several approaches to a solution of the problem—and you may disagree with him.

The reader will chuckle when he reads the chapter entitled "From Monticello to Bilbo." He gives an enlightening view of the disintegration of southern statescraft in the hands of men like "Pitchfork Ben" Tillman, "The Man" Bilbo, "Cotton Ed" Smith, and "Gene" Talmadge. He refers to them as "a yapping pack of southern demagogues who arose from the ruins of the aristocracy. Billingsgate was their meat and soft soap their dessert. The black man was their shield and buckler, an ever present help in time of trouble."

THE AUTHOR exposes misconceptions about the South in a poetic and erudite fashion. He shows the possible industrialization of the South. It is my opinion that his view of Negro crime versus southern crime places too much blame on the Negro. His statistics need a re-evaluation.

Southern Accent is the work of a poet, a historian, a legal advisor, and a literary craftsman who presents an old problem in a delightful and refreshing style. Read it and see!



**A TEACHER IN THE SOUTH**

"A Spark for My People" by Ella Earls Cotton (Exposition Press, New York, \$4) is a moving and inspiring autobiography, sociological in nature. Highlighting the many accomplishments of the Negro teacher of the deep South from the early days up to the present time, the book extols the heroism and tolerance this group has displayed in the face of limited opportunities and discrimination because of race. *Cover p. 12*

Mrs. Cotton, granddaughter of an ex-slave, relates in an interesting manner her early life in Virginia under the guidance of a devoted grandfather and grandmother. She shares with the reader her experiences as a student at Knoxville College from which she was graduated and where she met the man who became her husband. *Richmond, Pa.*

She tells of the heartbreak following the death of her grandfather; of an unhappy life in the home of an uncle; and the kindness of friends who helped to make her college education possible. A teacher for a number of years, Mrs. Cotton, now at the age of eighty, makes her home in Durham, North Carolina.—  
EVELYN W. SHARPE, DeLand, Florida.



26b 1954

## A STILLNESS AT APPOMATTOX

### Books Tells Story Of Civil War Days

"A STILLNESS AT APPOMATTOX" by Bruce Catton. Doubleday, New York, 439 pp. Price \$5.

*Call*  
The last year of the Civil war was a bitter period for the South. It was a most depressing and disappointing year for General Robert E. Lee (Commander) of the Army of Northern Virginia; Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States of America, and other leaders of the Southern cause.

*13*  
The bitterness, terrible grimness and anxious moments are described vividly in this story by Bruce Catton. The onward march of General U. S. Grant and the Union Army from Petersburg to Richmond sent die-hards like Edmund Ruffin of Hanover County scampering west to Amelia County, Virginia to prevent being captured by the Union Army.

*1-29-34*  
Catton's book is more than a story of battles, trenches, marching armies and death and suffering. It is the picture of the activities and hardships of valiant, seasoned veterans, the driven bounty man, the deserters and the experience of the men who enlisted to guard Washington and suddenly realized that they had to fight in the front lines.

"A Stillness At Appomattox" is the completion of a three-volume history of the Army of the Potomac. The others were "Mr. Lincoln's Army" and "Glory Road."



## STORMY BEN BUTLER

General Benjamin Butler, "Stormy Ben Butler" (Robert S. Holzman. Macmillan Co., 297 pp. \$5), was certainly the most dynamic and controversial figure on the Union side in the Civil War. The great issue was slavery and in this Butler showed himself a more open foe than Lincoln, certainly a more practical one. Lincoln, himself, virtually said it was the Negro balance of power that saved the Union. When Lincoln hung back and ordered slaves that had been freed returned to slavery, Butler was using them to fight their masters. As this book, quoting one authority, says, "His judgment was justified by the rules of modern warfare and its application solved a question of policy which otherwise might have been fraught with serious difficulties."

On his victorious march southward he made null and void the Dred Scott decision and the Fugitive Slave Law. He won greatest fame in Louisiana. Negroes there welcomed him, gave him a great banquet and revealed to him caches of arms and money. The South called him "Butler, the Beast."

Soon after his arrival he wrote Secretary of War Stanton, "I shall have, within a few days, a regiment of native guards (colored), the darkest of whom will be about the complexion of the late Mr. (Daniel) Webster."

STORMY BEN BUTLER



# Books of The Times

By ORVILLE PRESCOTT

LILLIAN SMITH does not write her books in a hurry. "Strange Fruit," that passionately angry fictional denunciation of racial segregation, was the great best seller of 1944. Five years later came "The Killers of the Dream," which discussed the same subject with equal vehemence but in terms of personal reminiscence, Freudian psychology and even more fervent moral indignation. Now, after another lapse of five years, Miss Smith's third book, "The Journey," is published. Its flaming idealism and deep feeling are as great as one has come to expect from Miss Smith, but its tone is considerably less shrill. She was born in Jasper, Fla., and grew up in Clayton, Ga. She knows the South intimately by experience and family heritage. But she did not become a conventional Southern lady. She attended Columbia University. She went to China and for three years taught music there. She edited a magazine and directed a camp for girls. And while doing these things she became a liberal intellectual and a crusading social reformer.



Lillian Smith

In "The Journey" she has written her personal contribution to the timeless debate on the condition of man, his place in the universe and his relation to God. It is an extremely uneven book—always noble in purpose, sometimes graphic and moving, sometimes vague and almost incoherent.

## Deep Feeling Moves Narrative

When Lillian Smith writes about people she has known—quoting their conversation and telling their stories—she does so with sure skill and considerable emotional power. When she writes about abstract ideas she occasionally lapses into spasms of embarrassingly lush rhetoric and passages where her generous feeling is obvious, but where her precise meaning is lost because of her inability to express herself clearly. Consequently, "The Journey" will delight some readers, who will respond to the fervor of its emotion, and will exasperate others, who will fret over its cloudiness of thought.

But, with all its failings, "The Journey" is an appealing book. Its personal conviction, its

faith in the noblest capacities of men and women and its spontaneous feeling for others are an admirable. Miss Smith writes very well indeed when she tells about Carl, who suffered from cerebral palsy and both fascinated and frightened her as a child; about "Little Grandma's" adventures with panthers; about Cephas, who wanted to burn all books, and Susie, his wife, who saw magic children that had been playing in a magnolia tree for eighty years. And when she recounts the story of Bill, Marty and John she makes it great.

Bill was a little boy who lost both his arms in an accident while his father was away in Korea. Marty had to face Bill's tragedy as best she could without the presence of her husband. But Marty's love for her child, her courage and John's truly wonderful letters brought Bill through. How the little family readjusted to each other on John's return is a deeply moving story; how Marty and Bill faced life with courage after John's death is an inspiring one.

## Unfolding of Lifelong Quest

In the course of her journey in search of "something to believe in" Miss Smith touches on many topics: on the genteel prudery with which nice little children were brought up when she was a child; on the malaria, typhoid and dysentery that killed many of her childhood playmates; on the simple faith that accepted such tragedies as mysterious manifestations of God's will and on the medical discoveries that have saved millions of children; on the tenderness and anxiety of childhood; on the ordeals and loneliness and griefs that are part of all human experience.

And she explains why she thinks that the teachings of Freud and the rejection of a too mechanistic interpretation of science have brought "a new humility" into modern life, which is demonstrated in many groups coming together to help others and themselves. This humility, which incorporates "acceptance of life" with "the capacity for love," is immensely encouraging, Miss Smith believes, and is the bright side of this era's picture that includes so fearfully dark a side.

Lillian Smith speaks frequently of God in "The Journey," but never explicitly enough to let one know just what her concept of God is. She speaks more frequently of men and women and of the necessity of their basing their existence on ideals of responsibility, honor and love. So, even if parts of "The Journey" are vague, its basic testimony to Miss Smith's belief in the moral significance of man is clear. And in this respect "The Journey" takes its place beside an ever-growing shelf of books by modern intellectuals who have looked at the self-inflicted martyrdom of modern man and reached the same indispensable conclusion.

THE JOURNEY. By Lillian Smith. 256 pages. World. \$3.50.



"It is the best book of its kind that I have ever read"\*

# Tales of the African Frontier

"It is the best book of its kind that I have ever read — parts are terrific! It pulls together and chronicles the exciting, romantic adventures of a number of remarkable men who opened wildest Africa, amid dangers and difficulties that are almost unbelievable, yet so clearly and authoritatively described that the conviction of authenticity grows with the reading of every page.

"That this is history of the first water, I cannot doubt. History of such daring, such horror and such hairbreadth escapes it surpasses that of any other frontier of civilization. The slave trading, tribal and other wars, poaching of ivory, mad rush to colonize and build empires, the exploits of the white hunters, the work of the first missionaries, and lastly the weird rise of the Mau Mau present a kaleidoscopic picture that cannot and should not be forgotten."

—\*JOSEPH WHARTON LIPPINCOTT

In the incomparable HUNTER, published in 1952, more than a million Americans read J. A. Hunter's account of his own adventures as a professional white hunter. Now J. A. Hunter joins with Dan Mannix, who helped in the final arranging of that volume, to tell the thrilling story of the opening of a great frontier — of men and women, very like our own ancestors, who risked their lives to make a new home, a new life. The result is this thrilling record of a "race of giants."

"TALES OF THE AFRICAN FRONTIER is as fascinating as the first book, HUNTER. Both are at the top of African literature."

—ROY CHAPMAN ANDREWS

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Photograph from "Tales of the African Frontier."

R. O. Preston and a man-eater.

*James Brock Review*

## When Africa Was Dark

TALES OF THE AFRICAN FRONTIER. By J. A. Hunter and Daniel P. Mannix. Illustrated. 308 pp. New York: Harper & Bros. \$4.

By JOHN BARKHAM

**N**AIROBI is getting to be more and more of a metropolis these days, and safaris for tourists have become virtually a national industry. Yet only half a century ago Nairobi was just a bog in the Kenya highlands and big game hunting was no pastime for tyros.

When a white man ventured into the interior in those days, he might easily get a Masai spear between his shoulder blades or a poisoned arrow from a pygmy's dart, to say nothing of the game that lurked in the bush. The pioneers who tamed East Africa were brave men who lived with danger and stared it down. "A race of giants," J. A. Hunter calls them, and with justice. In this pace-setting book he and Daniel Mannix scratch some of this rich pay-dirt for the first time.

Mr. Hunter, himself a Kenya pioneer, will be remembered for his autobiography, "Hunter" published in 1952. Mr. Mannix is his American collaborator. Between them they recount a dozen or so brief biographies of other East African trail-blazers, some dead, a few still living. Their book is an utterly enthralling, sometimes hair-raising adventure story that brings to life again a primeval Africa that was still the heart of darkness.

Long before the white man came, the Arab slavers had been there, and of these incom-

parably the greatest was Tippu Tib. In his native Zanzibar he learned that the rifle was "king of Africa," and by the rifle he ruled. He would capture a native village, impress its population, and have them carry their stocks of ivory to the coast, where he sold both slaves and ivory. Most of the slaves died en route, but, like the safaris which now take supplies of ice into the bush, enough residue remained to make the operation worth while.

Though the white men never defeated Tippu Tib, they drove

*Mr. Barkham, critic and lecturer, recently returned from a visit to Central Africa.*

him into retirement on his isle of cloves. After him came the hunters and the missionaries, most of whose names are unknown to the outside world. Take Albert Cook, for example, a medical missionary who did fifty years ago what Albert Schweitzer is now doing in the Congo.

The authors tell of others, too, like James McQueen, who once tried to saddle a lion and reared his six children like a Swiss Family Robinson in virgin bush; Johnny Boyes, who was so trusted by the Kikuyu that they made him their king; Colonel Grogan, who walked from Capetown to Cairo in 1898 to impress his future father-in-law; R. O. Preston, whose killing of the man-eaters of Tsavo enabled the railroad to Nairobi to get through.

**P**ERHAPS the most remarkable man in this company of

giants is Dr. L. S. B. Leakey, the son of Scottish missionaries who grew up among the Kikuyu and became a full tribal son. Now curator of Nairobi's Coryndon Museum and a distinguished anthropologist, Dr. Leakey knows more about Africa's Negroes than any other white man. The authors tell a little—all too little—of his astonishing experiences when his parents sent him straight out of the jungle to a British school and Cambridge University for an education.

One of the lessons driven home by this book lies in the picture it paints of Central Africa before the white man came. It was a land of rapine and slaughter, in which tribes preyed on each other like lions prey on antelopes. The barbarism and butchery which confronted the first pioneers beggared anything since Attila and Genghis Khan. (One chief crucified scores of his followers who had become Christian converts, and ordered their limbs to be cooked and eaten.) The white man stopped all this. He may have colonized Central Africa, but he also civilized it.

"Tales of the African Frontier" is the most knowledgeable account of its kind this reviewer has yet seen, an exciting, offbeat book that points the way for others still to come.



# History Week Supplement Is Published

NEW YORK — The Teachers Union announces the publication of the 1954 issue of the 4 page annual Negro History Week supplement of its weekly newspaper TEACHER NEWS.

This supplement is published to assist teachers and students in the celebration of Negro History Week and to acquaint them with some material which may inspire and suggest further study of Negro history. Among the articles featured in this year's issue are:

Questions and answers on Negro history; a list of "Negroes of the Year;" facts about the Negro people; stories of great Negroes children should know; recommended books on Negro life for children; and suggested teaching programs and materials for elementary, junior and senior high schools.

Single copies or copies in quantity may be secured free from the Teachers Union, 206 West 15 Street, New York, 11, N. Y.



## Black Boy in Vrededorp

Growing up as a black boy in a South African slum can be far more crippling, even, than a segregated childhood in Mississippi. But in "Tell Freedom" Peter Abrahams, a young citizen of Dr. Malan's realm, shows—unlike America's Richard Wright—the rare knack of writing about the squalor and poverty of his early childhood without ever becoming mired in his own bitterness.

Born in the teeming slums of Vrededorp, in the heart of Johannesburg, Abrahams was shunted from one relative to another, first at the death of his father, again when his mother was too sick to care for him. Just when he had learned to adjust to the harsh life of a rural community at Elsburg, he was whisked back to the slums again.

**Street Pack:** Until he was 10, Abrahams could neither read nor write. Most of the time he was boarded with an aunt who peddled firewood and sold illicit liquor on the ends. He worked when he could and roamed the streets the rest of the time with a pack of young Africans that stole and plundered in blind resentment at a society which blocked every exit with a sign saying—Reserved for Europeans Only.

Then, shortly after he was 10, Abrahams became an apprentice in a tin foundry. During the lunch hour one of the stenographers from the front office began reading him Lamb's "Tales From Shakespeare." For the first time, hearing the story of Othello, he began to realize that there might be a way out for someone whose skin was not white.

From that point on he bent all his energies to getting an education. Until he got a scholarship in the missionary college at Pietersburg in the Transvaal, he did it the hard way, working days and going to school nights. But college, after he reached it, began to seem more and more like a dead end. He had no intention of becoming a teacher, and when some of his poetry was accepted for publication he moved on to Johannesburg.

**Futility:** For a while he dabbled in South Africa's bitter politics. He found out some of the fallacies of race nationalism and even tried Communism for an interval. But he decided, finally, that all political action was fruitless for a Negro in a society where white supremacy ruled supreme. As the book ends, he buys a job in the crew of a ship bound for England.

So long as Abrahams sticks to his childhood story, "Tell Freedom" has its eloquence and conviction. It is only when he begins to emerge as the young intellec-



Abrahams and family in England

tual that he seems to totter a bit, but, then, most people do. "Tell Freedom" is nonetheless a deeply moving, tragically beautiful book. The inevitable comparison with Richard Wright's fine work is unfortunate. With six other books already published (two of them in this country) Abrahams is too good to be lumped with anyone else. Actually, at 35, he is one of the most promising writers to come up in the past decade.

►**Summing Up:** Africa experienced. (TELL FREEDOM: MEMORIES OF AFRICA. By Peter Abrahams. Knopf. \$4.)

## TELL FREEDOM, MEMORIES OF AFRICA

### Submission's a Subtle Thing

TELL FREEDOM. Memories of Africa. By Peter Abrahams. Alfred A. Knopf, New York. 370 pages. \$4.00.

"All my life had been dominated by a sign, often invisible but no less real for that, which said: RESERVED FOR EUROPEANS ONLY

"Because of that sign I had been born into filth and squalor of the slums and had spent nearly all my childhood and youth there because of a whole generation, new generations, had been born, had grown up, and died. I had the marks of rickets on my body; but I was only one of many, not unique. I had to go to work before I went to school. Free compulsory education was 'Reserved for Europeans Only.' The world, today, belonged to the 'Europeans.' They had spoken the language of physical strength, the language of force. I had submitted to their superior strength. But submission can be a subtle thing. A man can submit today in order to resist tomorrow. My submission had been such. And because I had not been free to show my real feeling, to voice my true thoughts, it had bred bitterness and anger. Nearly ten million others had submitted with equal anger and bitterness. One day the whites would have to reckon with these people. Two million whites cannot forever be overlords of ten million non-whites. One day they may have to submit to the same judgment of force they have invoked in their dealings with us. . . ."

This is the summing up of his first 21 years of life in South Africa by Peter Abrahams, talented young writer whose works have been compared with those of Richard Wright and Alan Paton.

There is little evidence of anger and bitterness throughout the story; rather there is more of bewilderment, hurt and calm acceptance as Peter Abrahams struggles to understand Christianity. His race had been taught to love one another by the white man—yet a white man stood by and forced a member of Peter's own race to beat him until he was practically unconscious—to teach him that he was black, less than a man. The white people snarled about the ignorant coloreds and blacks, yet seemed to feel even more contempt for



PETER ABRAHAMS.

those who strived for an education.

Peter grew up in the slums of Johannesburg. Here he became a slum arab, and led his gang of young thieves in grim exploits. When he was ten years old a white stenographer read him a synopsis of "Othello," opening a new world for him—a world that would one day lead to his recognition as a poet and a novelist. To him the dead poets of England came vitally to life and he vowed that one day he would go to England.

Peter's story is not all "blood, sweat and tears." There is love, laughter and friendship mingled with the sordid and the sad. The reader will be haunted by the feeling that the author is surely writing about our own times and problems.

"One day the whites would have to reckon with these people. . . ."

KAY SMITH WILSON.



# BOOK REVIEW

By LEWIS GANNETT

**TELL FREEDOM**, *Memories of Africa*, By Peter Abrahams. Knopf, 370 pages, \$4.

PETER ABRAHAMS' father, a miner in South Africa, was an Abyssinian, from a land where black kings still strode the earth in all their majesty. And when Peter was a small boy, he had a Zulu friend, who told him that in the old days his people too had had black kings. But Peter's mother was what is called "Cape Malay," and in the hierarchy of the Union of South Africa he was classified as "Colored," which is neither black nor white.



Ron Spillman and Black Star  
Peter Abrahams

"Why didn't the Coloreds have kings in the days before the white man?" Peter, at six, asked his mother. She laughed, and said to him, "Now don't be ashamed of your Colored mother just because you are black."

## *Dreams and Realities*

But when Peter walked home from the Elsburg siding, where on Wednesdays black boys could buy squares of crackling if they said "Please, baas" with due humility, three white boys jumped him and his friend Andries, shouting, "Your fathers are dirty black bastards of baboons," and beat him up when he retorted "Liar!" That night a white man came to the house where Peter lived, made Peter's Uncle Sam beat Peter again for his insolence, and Peter apologize.

"You'll understand one day," Aunt Liza said to the weeping boy, and took him into her bed with her. That was the first time Peter had ever slept in a bed.

Instead of understanding, Peter dreamed. A laughing old woman told him stories beginning "Once upon a time," and Peter began to dream stories of his own. Peter fought his way into a gang, and learned to beg and steal, and with the profits went to the cinema. "From it," he recalls, "we drew our picture of the world of white folk. Our morals were fashioned there." The illusions of the screen seemed realer than the realities of hunger in Vrededorp.

## *The New World of Books*

Peter was going on eleven, and working an eleven-hour day in a smithy, when the Jewish

secretary of his boss asked him why he didn't go to school, read him the story of Othello from Lamb's "Tales from Shakespeare," assured him he could learn to read himself, and gave him the book.

"When I can read and write I'll make stories like that," Peter Abrahams solemnly assured her. It was a long road but Peter learned, both to read, and to write stories which, if not quite like Shakespeare, have an accent of their own. (His "The Path of Thunder" appeared here in 1950 as a "Harper find.") "Tell Freedom" is Peter Abrahams' account, in an almost dream-like poetic prose, of his road from hopeless ignorance and sordid poverty to manhood. The book ends in 1939 when Peter, aged twenty, boarded a ship for England. He was already stamped as different, a great man among his people. He had written poems that had been published.

Before he was fifteen he had attended for three years a school presided over by a mad Boer poet, had won a prize for an essay on John Keats, and written a Wild West story. He lived by toting bags for white women in the market. He discovered that there were magazines written by black men for black readers. At the Bantu Men's Social Center in Johannesburg he read his way through a whole shelf-full of books marked "American Negro Literature"—DuBois, James Weldon Johnson, Alain Locke, Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen. They opened new worlds to his dreams.

## *Told Without Anger*

At a Diocesan Training College young Abrahams made another discovery: there were white men with whom one could talk without saying "Yes, baas," without thinking of color. But outside the college grounds the world was still fenced with signs "Reserved for Europeans." He brooded over the problem, What is this Christianity that all the whites profess?

Peter Abrahams writes with art, not with anger, telling his story in simple sketches which reproduce the stages of his wonders and puzzlements along his sun-flecked, shadow-haunted road to life. He tells of his sympathetic encounters with missionaries and Communists, and his almost unconscious rejection of both. He was still seeking, when he left South Africa, a meaning which transcended their dogmas, and also the ugly race-color society he was leaving behind. He wanted to feel freedom, and to "tell freedom," and that he does in this book with a serenity which, to my recollection, no book by an American Negro can match. And this despite his statement, on his final page, that "The two million white (in South Africa) cannot forever be overlords of the ten million non-whites. One day they may have to submit to the same judgment of force they have invoked in their dealings with us."



## Books Out Today

THAT REMINDS ME, by *W. W. Burley* (Doubleday, \$4.50). The autobiography of the chairman of the board of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co.  
 THE DARK CHILD, by Camara Leye (Doubleday, \$2.75). The autobiography of an African boy.

26b 1954

INDUSTRIAL VOYAGE, by P. W. Schfield (Doubleday, \$4.50). The autobiography of the chairman of the board of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co.  
 THE DEATH OF THE FOURTH REPUBLIC, by Ronald Matthews (Praeger, \$5). The decade since French liberation.  
 NORTH TO DANGER, by Virgil W. Morey (John Day, \$3.75). Deep-sea diving in Alaska.  
 THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CHILD CARE AND GUIDANCE, edited by Sidonie Matsner Gruenberg (Doubleday, \$7.50).  
 THE NATURE OF PREJUDICE, by Gordon W. Allport (Beacon, \$7). A survey of prejudice from the Ukraine to Boston.

## THE NATURE OF PREJUDICE

## Face trouble

"No Christian can defend segregation as morally right. However, he can reason that sudden abolition will cause a riot. Then he may recall that Christ caused trouble, that the Declaration of Independence caused trouble, and that the trouble is the saving of our problems. Let's face the trouble."

Quoted by Life Magazine as the quote of a South Carolina Stock Broker. (From the book "The Nature of Prejudice" by Gordon Allport.)



## Mother Makes a Hoodlum

Negro Family's Problems  
Apart From Racial Issue

Reviewed by Sterling North

Author and Book Reviewer

THE THIRD GENERATION.

By Chester Himes. World.  
350 pp. \$3.95.

MY ADMIRATION for any Negro writer who can keep his temper and view mankind with a certain philosophical detachment is tremendous. Chester Himes seems to be evolving into such a novelist.

Instead of blaming every failure of a Negro on the white majority, Himes has come to the conclusion that such propagandistic clichés are insufficient.

His distinguished and disturbing story of a Negro youth, who, by the age of 18, has become a menace to himself and the entire community, is a study of internal family discords and their effect upon sensitive children.

It is true that conflict based on color is at the core of even this strange story. But the struggle is an inter-parental one between a beautiful, high-strung and talented mother who is almost white, and a very dark father who has no desire to be light.

THE FATHER IS a "professor" who teaches metal craftsmanship and blacksmithing at little Negro colleges in the South. The mother has high aspirations for her children and starts them reading the classics and learning serious music at an early age. But in her anxiety to force them to become "somebodies," she drives the oldest boy from home and helps make a particularly messy juvenile delinquent out of her best-loved and youngest offspring.

I am not convinced that Himes is completely logical in analyzing the emotional forces which pervert the affectionate, polite youngest son, Charles, into one of the wildest drivers in Cleveland, a bootleg-guz-

zling fancy man who steals cars, passes worthless checks, and otherwise acts like a young hoodlum bent on destroying himself and his family.

Such a mother despite her neurotic intensity, would have instilled some of her finer qualities into a boy as bright and sensitive as Charles seems to be before he starts going wrong. The reader is likely to have considerable sympathy for the mother, who feels that what the boy really needs is stern discipline and less money. No mother's "nagging" is sufficient excuse for the loathsome and continuous debauchery indulged in by Charles in the last quarter of this book.

IN MANY WAYS, and despite its flaws, this is a strong and important novel. It gives us a completely new and most interesting picture of life in the sort of Negro family where all the children are expected to go through a good university. It furnishes a fascinating picture of the small, high-school level Negro colleges of Georgia, Mississippi, Arkansas and Missouri.

On a far less beguiling plane, it offers a revoltingly vivid but quite unforgettable picture of life in the worst Negro dives of Cleveland. In some of these chapters, Himes runs the danger of completely disgusting his readers with his chief character.

In my opinion, such books as those by Richard Wright and Ralph Ellison tend to aggravate the problem they attack because of their violence toward the white majority. Chester Himes largely avoids this particular flaw by making most of his characters rise above (or sink below) the matter of mere race. They are human beings, achieving the dignity (or disgrace) of universal man.

Until writers learn to see

these universals in all mankind, there is small chance of alleviating prejudice, as most novels concerning minorities lean toward propaganda, often engendering less sympathy than dismay, fear and hatred.

Chester Himes is on the right track. His characters certainly are not angels. But neither are they sentimentalized stereotypes or walking symbols. In helping us to understand, he helps us to sympathize. That is the total moral duty of the novelist.



READABLE, FULL OF FACTS

THROUGH MALAN'S AFRICA

# A Look at 'Malan's Africa' Offers Fuel for Controversy

**THROUGH MALAN'S AFRICA.** By Robert St. John. New York: Doubleday & Co., Inc. 317 pages, indexed. \$3.95.

Reviewed by MARGARET SHANNON

This is a book for people who believe in segregation, and people who don't. It will make both mad, give both arguments for their points of view and stir the cockles even of middle-of-the-roaders.

It is good reporting; at least it reads good. Occasionally it gives the feeling of surface treatment.

Author St. John speaks of spending most of a day with someone as if that were an enormous amount of time and fully long enough to plumb heart, mind and soul to the innermost. That is not possible and everybody knows it, including Mr. St. John.

The Union of South Africa is possibly the most segregated place on earth. The whites and colored are segregated, and then there is segregation within segregation.

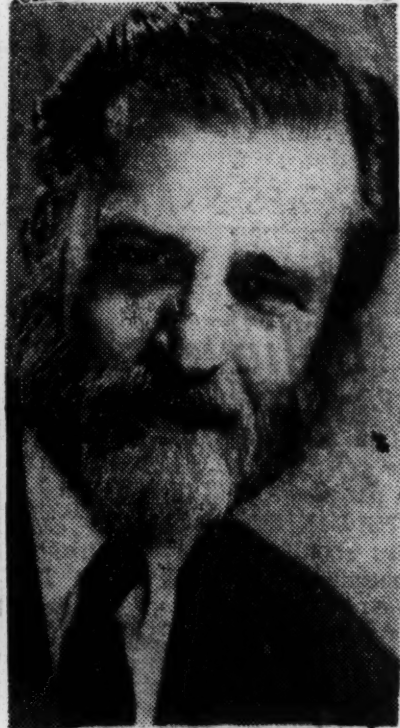
South Africa has 2,500,000 whites and 10 million non-whites. There are, among the non-whites, 8,500,000 Africans, or Negroes; one million called the Colored, people of mixed blood; a third of a million Indians, Asia variety, and 63,000 Malays.

The Malan of the title is, of course, Dr. Daniel Francois Malan, a former minister of the Dutch Reformed Church who is South Africa's prime minister and white knight of white supremacy.

He has made notable efforts. To secure his Purified Nationalist party in power, he sought to sidestep the constitution and disfranchise the Colored voters. When the highest court of South Africa ruled against him, he sought to sidestep the court by creating the "High Court of Parliament." It didn't work, but it gave his reputation a boost.

But writer St. John points out that South Africa's racial prob-

lems and restrictions do not date



ROBERT ST. JOHN  
South Africa Report

from Malan. Old Jan Christian Smuts was a segregationist in a quiet way.

Malan, however, invented the word "apartheid," or popularized it. "Apartheid," writes St. John, "is an Afrikaans word meaning 'separateness.' It is pronounced as if it were spelled 'apart-hate,' which is the spirit in which many Nationalists use the word."

St. John's book is no sociological work in the sense that it is full of high-sounding theories. It

is full of facts, a personalized account of a journey into darkness. He does not mutter in his beard (he really has a beard, you know), but speaks out rather plainly.

To agree or not to agree is not the question. The book contains a great deal of information and is very readable.

## St. John Offers Some Hope

## Malan's 'Apartheid' Policy Traced to Economic Roots

Reviewed by John Lindsay  
Staff Reporter  
8-8-54

**THROUGH MALAN'S AFRICA.** By Robert St. John. Doubleday, 310 pp. \$3.95.

DR. DANIEL FRANCOIS MALAN, 80-year-old Premier of the Union of South Africa, has devoted his twilight years, according to author St. John, to the proposition that "all men are created unequal and that it is the bounden duty of good Christians to keep them that way, for all time."

In a land in which 2½ million whites rule firmly a politically powerless 10 million African, Colored, Indian and Maylayan people, Malan's institutionalized racial concept, apartheid, or separateness, has, as might be expected, produced a taut racial situation.

It is with the chilling impact of apartheid on the South African people, and not Malan the person, that veteran reporter Robert St. John concerns himself in "Through Malan's Africa."

BUT AS the reader is drawn into the conversations of factional leaders in this brooding, unhappy land, or travels with the author into perhaps the ugliest, most demoralizing ghettos in the world, the picture of Malan as the master mind of racial exploitation as a means to an economic end is all too clear.

The author's description of

Alexandra, near Johannesburg, where some 90,000 Africans are jammed into a sanitationless shanty town covering less than 600 acres, is perhaps his most vivid account of the economic reasons underlying mounting racial pressure.

Here the 90,000 eke out what passes for a "living." Most of the male population works the gold mines and is paid a "minimum" wage of 44 cents a day. The women work the kitchens of the ruling white class in Johannesburg.

Their "homes" are frequently nothing more than jerry-built shacks of discarded tin and lumber. There are no sewer facilities and the offal

piles up in the streets through which their diseased children crawl, naked and filthy. Running water is not even a luxury; it doesn't exist in the homes. Electricity is rare and few places have telephones.

AND YET it is this swarming mass of humanity on which the economy of South Africa depends, for it is cheap labor and abundant. It is little wonder that Malan's government has dedicated itself to the preservation of the status quo.

By denying Africans any sense of political freedom because of their racial "inferiority," it is a simple matter to deny them economic and social equality for the same reason.

Despite the somber picture St. John has painted of the South African natives' plight, he finds some hope of peaceful solution as a result of conversations with Alan Paton, author of "Cry the Beloved Country," and Michael Scott, liberal white leader, among others.

But the hopes of these men appear to be based on time, and the question St. John raises inferentially in his tour through Malan's unhappy land is: Will the people wait?



THE TRUTH ABOUT MIXED  
MARRIAGES by Rev. John A.  
O'Brien, Ph. D., Sunday Visit-  
or, Huntington, Ind. Price \$1;  
95¢ *James C. Bude*

Father O'Brien shares the re-  
sults of his 40 years experience  
in counseling young men and  
women of all faiths on the pro-  
blems of courtship and marriage.  
The author believes that this  
book imparts facts and gives gen-  
erous insight and encouragement.  
It is bound to lessen the heart-  
aches and tears of all couples and  
add to their joys and happiness.

These findings of trained in-  
vestigators of every faith lead,  
according to the author, to one  
conclusion: Mixed marriages have  
so many inherent difficulties and  
disadvantages that young people  
who wish to achieve deep and  
lasting happiness should avoid  
them. *Oct. 10-16-54*

The reader, however, may wish  
to differ with the aim of this  
book "to safeguard and promote  
the happiness of every couple  
planning marriage." *P. 1*



# IN AND OUT OF BOOKS

Traveler

By HARVEY BREIT

SOME days ago Lillian Smith, the famous author of a famous novel called "Strange Fruit," took off for India. A few scattered tatterdemalion book people symbolically saw her off the day before she set sail, and we say without fear of contradiction that you could not want to meet a nicer lady. Pamphleteer and rebel, she nevertheless is of sound mind and balanced judgment. Anti-segregationist, she nevertheless hasn't a dram of vindictiveness in her veins even when confronted by a pro-segregation argument. We have always found her cool in action, warm in mind and altogether admirable.

In February Miss Smith will be deep in the arms of Calcutta. In that same month a little book she wrote will be deep in the arms of Texas along with the rest of the forty-eight states. It is titled "Now Is the Time," and it is all about segregation—a combination of essay and manual and question-and-answer discussion. If we know our Miss Smith, it would not be going out on a limb to declare the book to be sound and scrupulous and galvanizing without being malevolent. Publishers Viking and Dell believe in it enough to bring out simultaneously both hard and paperback editions, the one for \$2, the other for 25c.

We cannot think of a better ambassador to India than Miss Smith, who by the way is going unofficially and on her own. She has fought for America courageously from within, and she will continue to fight for us in India—plans, speeches, bombast or arrogance. Exactly the ticket, we say, and we look forward to her adventure with pleasure and confidence.



## TO NO SPECIAL LAND

Mrs. Reynold's book and of 14 other Exposition Press books which have also been nominated, Edward Uhlan, publisher said: "I never cease to be amazed at the number of really worthwhile books that are passed up by publishers every year. These Pulitzer nominations are outstanding examples of books which might never have been published, if Exposition Press and the authors did

not share a mutual faith in them."

Foreword to "To No Special Land," written under Mrs. Reynold's pen name, Eve Lynn, is by Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune. Of these poems Mrs. Bethune says: "My appreciation of this work is deep and sincere, and my prayers are that this kind of devotion, translated into poetic aspiration, may bring comfort and hope to all who come within the ripple of its influence."

Mrs. Reynolds is the wife of the Hon. Hobson R. Reynolds, Grand Director of the Elks Department of Civil Liberties and well-known in Eastern Seaboard social and political affairs.



**PULITZER PRIZE WINNER**—Mrs. Evelyn Crawford Reynolds, of Philadelphia, Pa., has been nominated for the coveted Pulitzer Prize in poetry. Mrs. Reynolds book, "To No Special Land," was published in 1953 by Exposition Press and is described as reflecting a deep and warm feeling for humanity.

## Book Of Poems Nominated For The Pulitzer Prize

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. — A book of poems by Mrs. Evelyn Crawford Reynolds of this city, published in 1953 by Exposition Press of New York City, has been nominated for the coveted Pulitzer Prize, it has just been announced.

The famed prize set up by one of America's most distinguished journalists, Joseph Pulitzer, is administered annually by Columbia University and is awarded for poetry and

four other classes of literature.

Mrs. Reynolds' book, "To No Special Land," is a collection of vibrant lyric verse which reflects a deep and warm feeling for humanity.

In announcing the nomination of

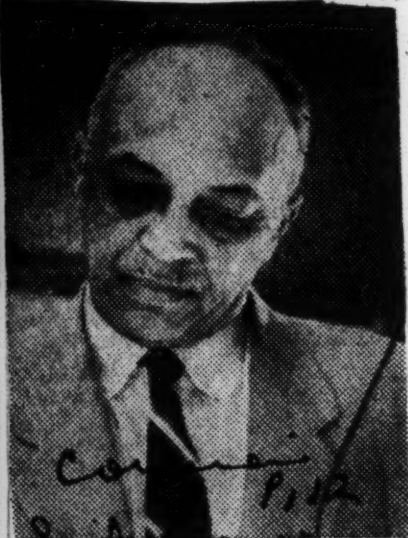


26b 1954

THE WILLIE MAYS STORY

F. S. C. JOURNAL  
\$4.75). A study in sociological  
jurisprudence.  
TYCOONS AND TYRANT, by Louis  
P. Lochner (Regnery, \$5). Ger-  
man industry from Hitler to Ade-  
nauer.  
FINGERPRINTS NEVER LIE, by  
Fred Cherrill (Macmillan, \$3.95).  
The author's Scotland Yard case-  
book.  
THE AGE OF CONFORMITY, by  
Alan Valentine (Regnery, \$3). On  
fuzzy American thinking.  
TRUTH IS ONE, by Henry James  
Forman and Roland Gammon  
(Harper, \$5). The world's reli-  
gions in text and picture.  
THE WILLIE MAYS STORY, by  
Ken Smith (Greenberg, \$1). With  
a foreword by Leo Durocher and  
numerous photographs.





J. MASON BREWER

... "The Word" has disappeared

## 'The Word' Proves a Hit With Reggers

AUSTIN, Tex.—The Word on the Brazos, has caught the fancy of local book lovers as evidenced by the way that it has disappeared from the shelves in book stores.

Authored by Huston Tillotson professor, J. Mason Brewer, "The Word" has rated nothing but raves from book critics down here in Texas and "up north" including the hyper-critical opinions of the New York press.

Tributes to Mr. Brewer were paid by many leading authors and writers including Carl Sandburg, the great poet, and Holding Carter, Mississippi editor.

Now in its second printing, "The Word" is a collection of anecdotes about Negro preachers. The author, Mr. Brewer, has already earned the accolade of being the nation's "leading Negro folklorist."



# THE BOOK SHELF

By MARCUS H. BOULWARE

THE VIOLENT WEDDING by Robert Lowry, Doubleday and Company, Garden City, New York, 1953; 255 pages, price, \$3.

This novel of the prize ring tells the story of Paris "Baby" James, a Negro fighter who



Dr. Boulware

girl, who loved him. She was an artist and to her "Baby" was a black angel of death, a gliding and dancing statue who made blood and pain beautiful with savage grace.

Although he didn't want to, something made Paris telephone Laine Brendin. When the phone rang, she was fixing herself a rye and soda in the kitchen of the three-room, three-flights-up Morton street apartment where she lived alone. She was looking like a village girl today, wearing sandals and jeans and a black-and-white checked wool shirt, and she was wondering why she had called Paris when she knew so well how much it would irritate him to have her call. Paris told her over the phone that he would see her over the weekend.

Laine's history up to the time she met Paris was varied. It all started when Lloyd, her fiance, went overseas with the Army. She found herself painting less and drinking more. Her first affair was with Staff Sergeant Jerry Clawson. She had not wanted to know anything about him, but simply to lose herself in him and his uniformed anonymity.

When he shipped out to England, she met one George Jones, a sculptor, and she went to Rome to live with him on her small income and his GI Bill of Rights money, and she stayed with him

even when he forgot he belonged to her and had gone off for weeks at a time with many of his Italian girls. She knew it couldn't last, and finally re-

turned to the United States.

\* \* \*

IT WAS AT this time she met Dick Willis, professional newspaper writer, who went around watching games that grown men played for money and writing about them in the bristling strings of private cliches that were the accepted language of the sport pages. He was touching forty, a stocky, bass-voiced man with the ghost of a bald spot haunting the top of his dark head, and he had only three interests in life: sex, food, and sports—any kind of sports.

She had known without asking the reason he'd been calling her up two or three times a week for the past couple of months—he saw the possibilities of much fun and many games with an "interesting" girl in Greenwich Village, who had her own apartment, her own livelihood, and all the time in the world to be called on when he wanted her—but she smoked him out, as frankly as she could without hurting his feelings, on how she felt about him.

\* P 3

"YOU FOUND me in the midst of my saintly year, Dick," she'd told him one night when he came up for dinner. "The next time I have an affair I want to fall in love—even if it's only for a day." "And here I always thought I was lovable," he'd answered easily; for his dark goodlooks had got him by such reservations too many times before for him to take her seriously. It was Dick Willis who introduced Laine to "Baby." When "Baby" visited her in her apartment, he noticed a painting of himself. Laine had painted him a lurid black face in a puzzle behind a crisscross of grays and ring ropes and blood. The painting fascinated Baby James, but it scared him—scared him the way Laine did with her vision of him and her crazy, wild-eyed devotion. But he could break clean from her or her vision—even when he battled for his life under glaring spotlights in the ring. Violent tragedy marks the stirring final chapters of this novel written with the punch of a left to the jaw.

THE VIOLENT WEDDING



**Author's New Book,  
Transistors Theory**

LOS ANGELES, Calif.—  
Rufus P. Turner, local elec-  
tronic engineer, is the author  
of a new technical book,  
"Transistors — Theory and  
Practice," released this week  
by Gernsback Publications,  
Inc., of New York.

26b 1954  
C. N. Barclay (Philosophical  
Library, \$2.75). A discussion  
of world conditions.  
THEY BROUGHT THEIR GUNS, by  
Thomas Thompson (Ballan-  
tine Books, hard-bound 35  
cents, hard-bound \$2.75). Eleven  
short stories of the West.  
TUNISIA TODAY: Crisis in North  
Africa, by Leon Laitman (Ci-  
Africa, by Leon Laitman (Ci-  
adel, \$4). A study of social,  
tions.

TUNISIA TODAY: CRISIS IN NORTH AFRICA





# Book Review

**Wall Within the Orbit**, by Grace Fox Perry. Vantage Press, Inc., 120 West 31st Street, New York.

There was quite a family of DeMonceaus even after the Civil War had cut down their



number with the same impartial retribution with which it had diminished their fortune.

There was Old Pierre who had founded the family, established its wealth, and consolidated the social position his wife, Lydia, had brought to it.

There were the sons, Lucius and Will, and

Mr Redding their sons, Thomas, David and William. There were hosts of nephews, nieces, in-laws and illegits, and nearly everyone who had any claim to social distinction in the coastal plains of South Carolina called the DeMonceaus "cousins."

Besides, there was a swarm of colored DeMonceaus, some of them related by blood, and all of them bound by the ties that emancipation did not quite sever.

Old Pierre and his grandsons, David and William, were still living when the war ended but, except for the colored kin, the family was dying back.

Unhappily married to a Charleston belle, David tried to pull things together and adjust to all the changes that the end of the war brought.

William, widowed and inflexibly unreconstructed, gave himself to hatred of the new times, to savage reprisals against the new masters and the free but almost helpless colored people, and to drinking bouts that interfered with his law practice in the town of Neffborough.

But for all William's physical degeneration and moral degradation, it was he who started the family's return to its former place.

He did it by marrying Garron Wilks, a

By SAUNDERS REDDING

"cracker" from Green Gully, a waitress in a hotel — but a woman of spirit, common sense and beauty.

With Garron's sudden projection into the midst of the decaying DeMonceaus, things get complicated. David's wife, Alicia, estimating Garron as a come-down, makes one kind of trouble. David himself falls in love with Garron and makes another. William the frustrated, drinking himself into excesses of reaction, makes a third.

But Garron is equal to every emergency. Some of her methods are drastic: she exposes Alicia as a woman who went too far before her marriage: she allows William to discover her love for David — but in the end, with some help from fate, she firmly closes the orbit of the mighty, and Old Pierre at last can close his eyes in the happy assurance that the DeMonceaus will live again.

The first part of *Wall Within the Orbit* is cluttered with throwbacks, but once the author gets into her story she makes it swing along at a lively pace.

Historical reality is treated without too much regard for the facts, and sometimes Mrs. Perry falls into the egregious errors of recrimination, but on the whole she deals fairly with her characters, both black and white.

When her concern is people, her insights are lively and felicitous; when she deals with situations, she is overdramatic and sentimental; when she deals with history (of Reconstruction), she proves that she has read Claude Bowers.

*Wall Within the Orbit* is no world-beater, but it is an adequate first novel.



26b 1954

WHITE FACE

# Offord's Newest Book in Print

NEW YORK — Carl Offord, author of "White Face" has come up with a new novel, "The Naked Fear" which is based upon the characterization of a weak man. Offord's book is being published by the Publicity Department of Ace Books, Inc.



26b 1954

WORKING TOGETHER: INTEGRATION OF WASHINGTON SCHOOL

PAMPHLET TO AID IN D.C.  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS PUBLISHED.

Washington D.C. A 16 page pamphlet designed to aid the successful integration of the Washington Public school system has just been issued by the American Friend Service Committee, it was announced today by Lewis M. Hoskins, Executive Secretary of the Quaker organization. The pamphlet, which is titled "Working together: Integration of Washington School," will be distributed by the organization's Community Relations Program in Washington, 104 C Street, N.E.

The pamphlet poses 24 questions most often asked about the integration of Washington schools and gives answers based on the experience of the American Friends Service Committee and of school systems which have integrated in recent years.

....  
World p.7  
Birmingham, Ala.  
Fri. 4-30-54



# BOOK REVIEWS

by  
GERTRUDE MARTIN

## Book review

"Youngblood", by John O. Killens,  
Dial Press, \$3.95

Reviewed by ALMENA LOMAX

"Walk together children" . . . . .

Published the week of the momentous Supreme Court decision, a first novel by a young Negro writer, John O. Killens, is in the running for the National Book Award, given to another Negro, Ralph Ellison, two years ago for his "Invisible Man."

"Youngblood" by John O. Killens is a first novel set in the Deep South. Crossroads, Georgia is the fictional town where the action takes place and there is plenty of action of a violent kind. Primarily, it is the story of the groping attempts of Negroes in a small town to unite against white oppression.

Killens' writing shows considerable merit but his book is repetitious and too little attention has been paid to character development. The result is that even the principal character lack depth.

The story centers around young Bob Youngblood, the son of a struggling but highly respectable family. Reared to stand up for his rights always, Bob finds himself at odds often with the whites around him. By the time he is sixteen and has finished the 10-year high school course he is plunged into a new world at the Hotel Ogelthorpe where he becomes a bellboy.

The piling up of incidents of violence between Negroes and whites weaken the story. In addition Bob is continually plagued by white women throwing themselves at him. However, to life this may be one can have too much even of a good thing.

The author had the makings of a good novel both in plot and characterizations but his book needed considerable paring from its nearly 600 pages. As mentioned above the characterizations are lacking in presentation and most of them are types rather than flesh and blood people.

"Youngblood" by John O. Killens, The Dial Press, Inc.; 461 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, N. Y.; 1954; \$3.95.

But "Youngblood" is a vastly different book from "Invisible Man." The latter dealt in fantasy, allegory, symbolism.

"Youngblood" is flesh and blood people, and it is not only Negroes, but a faithful picture of white people, good and bad, corrupt and innocent, kindly and vicious, southern and even northern.

Killens comes from the South of which he writes. But his book is so intimately written that the impact would have been the same had he been writing of Negroes in Chicago or Cleveland, Ohio.

The pattern of brutality, of man's inhumanity against man, is the same whether in Crossroads, Ga., or Harlem, N. Y., or New Delhi, India or Kenya, or Yokohama, Japan.

One of the reviewers of "Youngblood", said its message "is that in all men the most impelling force is human dignity."

This is the problem which has reached crisis proportions in our age. Some have not merely dignity, but tribute, an exalted status which they do not deserve; and some men have not dignity enough. And this is the struggle.

★ ★ ★

Of the struggle of Negroes in Crossroads, Ga. for dignity, Killens wrote. But, as I said he might have written his story in any community of the United States, and most parts of the world; and the characters might just as well have been South Africans, Kenyatta, Koreans, Jews, Indians, etc.

The Negro is not unique in the ways in which he has survived the efforts to de-humanize him.

As a matter of fact, the basic humanity of people is nowhere more apparent in John Killens's

In spite of the wide contrast — that this is being done to a Negro simply because he is a Negro — and the tyrant is white; and that this is possible only because of the intrinsic difference of race, and the wide chasm of status separating races — the author succeeds in conveying the basic humanness of the white tyrant, the "fiend" compelling the horse-whipping of a small boy, the arch-brute hunting the innocent Negro in the woods with all the zest, excitement, and sport as if the running creature were a fox or ravenous wolf.

This is the writer's genius, the ability to see people and their acts as entirely 'in proportion' with their problems and the pressures on them.

There are no 'super' people in "Youngblood", neither white nor Negro, neither hero nor villain.

They are people — you and I — reacting as our lives permit, and decree, that we shall act.

BOOK NEEDED NOW

It was this fact which impressed this writer more than anything else, and which is the greatness of the book and the genius of the author — and which brings his message within reach of all who read it.

For the book is needed, and the need is particularly pressing now when so many Negroes and well-meaning northern whites have forgotten what it is to be a Negro.

This book is for all temporizers with human suffering. This book is for the heart grown cold and stony and cynical; for the remote heart, insulated and cushioned; for the sophisticated heart, wrapped in dry ice.

This book is for the "not now, boys", for the "it is not expedient, boys. For those who have grown

academic about discrimination, who think it is possible for a Negro to be "too militant"; for those who think that devotion to the problems of Negroes is "racist"; for those who think the Negro has no problem; and for those who think that fighting for 'Negro rights' and dignity for Negroes is Communism.

This book is for Negroes who think they can 'go it alone', or in 'co-existence' with the mildly decent impulses of paternalistic whites; for those who think there is no longer any 'Negro problem' because they make \$5000 per year and sit down with white people to survey — eternally to survey, the situation.

This is also a primer for Negroes who do not know that the problem is not basically race; but that the race problem is part of man's inhumanity to man; and that there are white people who feel this, and who stand ready to fight — fight, nor talk about, our mutual problem, the most pressing aspects of which is racial prejudice . . . simple, unpretentious white people like Oscar Jefferson, with his unlearned, unspoiled, bird-dog instinct that he wasn't much better off than the Negroes of Crossroads, Ga., and what did it get him anyway to do the millowners' dirty work for them, the cowering of Negroes, the keeping them down and in their place, and liquidated when they wouldn't stay down.

★ ★ ★

We are not in a mood to apologize for "Youngblood's" not-to-be-denied message by holding out as bait for intellectually lazy people the fact that it is an easy-to-read book, a beguiling story, rich in humor and drama, . . . also earthly, realistic, and plentifully endowed with three-letter, four-letter, five-letter, and six-letter words, plus some combination which this reviewer hadn't met before.

And there is sex.

But this book's sex, and its profanity, even those graphic scenes with the lusty little boys in the out-house, were the cleanest we have ever read. They had the clean-dirt, the loamy wholesomeness, of rich soil. They were utterly natural, and therefore, not obscene. It's a book which we wouldn't at all mind our 10-year-old daughter reading. As a matter of fact, we think we will give it to her to read in a year

or so, as her introduction to the realities and subtleties of living, of being a Negro, an American, a woman, and a human being.

Too, the story answers one of the questions which has always gone unanswered with us, as to why any Negro who can walk, run, crawl, or ride, stays in the South. With some people, it is because they have made their peace, gotten in a rut, gotten used to it, or are living off it. Which is all only a way of saying they have ceased to fight.

But the Youngbloods, Joe Laurie and Robbie, and the teacher, who went to the South from the North, stayed with the South from an instinct which said that the fight for their dignity would have no meaning unless it took place there, on the scene of its greatest denial — that anything less would be running from the fight, which as long as the need exists, is the only thing making life meaningful.

★ ★ ★

It occurs to the writer that we have come to what should be the end of a review, and have not told what the story was about.

But no matter. The story, the episodes, the characters, even — in spite of the great facility of the author in moving them about, his great dexterity and virtuosity of construction, movement, dialogue, etc. — none of the detail, the mechanics, the devices, are important in this novel.

The man has created like God. He has made life; what matter that the characters and situations in the drama change periodically.



**In Darkest Georgia**

**YOUNGBLOOD.** By John O. Killens. Dial Press. \$3.95. *8-21-54*

A family chronicle of the Youngbloods—Laurie Lee, Joe, their children Robby (who looked like Joe Louis) and Jenny Lee—*152-153* "Youngblood" has a certain eighteenth-century discursiveness and leisurely pace. It is no trouble for the author to stop his narrative and go back for an extended biography of one of the characters. Surprisingly, it is no trouble for the reader either, which indicates that while Mr. Killens has a tyro's willingness to flout the "rules" of writing, he has the professional's ability to get away with it.

In Crossroads, Georgia, the Youngbloods have a reputation as "good colored folks," a reputation earned by their patient industry, but Joe as a young man attempted to escape from the South, only to be forcibly "hired" on his way north. And Laurie Lee has taught her children fiercely not to submit to injustice at black hands or white. When the paternalism of the wealthy whites wears thin and the oppression of the Crackers become intolerable, the self-respect of the Youngbloods demands that they stand up to their tormentors, no matter what the cost.

"Youngblood" is described on the blurb as a documentary novel. Certainly the author has not hesitated to add any material which he feels might be even remotely relevant, including a "good" Cracker who is as unreal as Dickens's Riah and introduced for much the same purpose. In spite of its documentariness, its attribution of almost cloying virtue

to the Youngbloods and their friends, and its often pat situations. "Youngblood" is well worth the hours spent on its 560 pages.

Nation

Sat. 8-20-54



JOHN O. KILLENS — Author

NEW author John O. Killens has been described by many critics as the literary find of the year. Courier reviewer J. Saunders Redding, found his recently published book, "Youngblood," a notable first novel. *Courier*

The book has also been called the autobiography of a race. It is a story of a Negro family named Youngblood who live in the Southern industrial town of Crossroads, Georgia, in the late twenties and early thirties. Negro-white relations are the major concern of novelist Killens. Yet he states, "If I had preached a sermon, no one would ever read it . . . I've tried to tell of two children growing up in the South, and the burdens this places on their parents . . . I wanted to show the deep distrust most Negroes feel for white people, but at the same time the Negroes as a whole stand ready to grasp hands firmly with honest-to-goodness white friends." *152-153*

Though fiction, Killens has been exposed to many of the experiences he describes in his book. Born in Macon, Georgia, he is almost totally Southern-educated, having attended Edward Waters College in Jacksonville, Florida, Morris Brown in Atlanta, Howard, and Terrell Law School in Washington, D. C. Later, making his home in New York, he attended Columbia. *152-153*

Prior to his writing career, he worked for the NLRB. He is married and has two children.—MARGUERITE CARTWRIGHT.



# Reviews Leader's Life, Unpublished Poems

NEW ORLEANS—Mrs. Thornhill, widow of Dr. E. C. Thornhill, and daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Marshall of New Orleans, died in Flint-Goodridge Hospital on Nov. 3 at 3:00 P.M. She gave her time, energy and talent to the church, music, civic and business enterprises. In her leisure hours, she wrote inspiring poetry.

Receiving her early education in New Orleans public schools, Mrs. Thornhill entered Southern University, then in New Orleans, where she was an outstanding student in high school and in the normal school. A member of the late Prof. W. J. Nickerson's orchestra, the Glee Club and Senior Class Club.

## FIRST TEN

On graduation, she ranked among the first ten applicants after taking the teachers' examination, and was appointed to Thomy Lafon School. Under the late Mrs. Sylvia E. Williams in this field, she became one of the outstanding teachers in the system during her career.

On July 14, 1913, she was married to Dr. E. C. Thornhill. From this date to the end of her life, she gave her attention to the rearing of her children, to the church, music and civic activities. Elected clerk of Central Congregational Church in 1921, she served thirty-two years rendering unselfish and efficient service.

When the B-Sharp Music Club organized thirty-five years ago by Camille L. Nickerson, Mrs. Thornhill was its first president which position she held until 1952 when she requested to be relieved. Her other activities included personnel director of the Louisiana Life Insurance Company, volunteer worker with civil defense in World Wars I and II, with the United Service Organization, and the War Bond campaigns. Also, she was a life member of the YWCA, a charter member of the National Association of College Women, a patron of the P.T.A., the Flint-



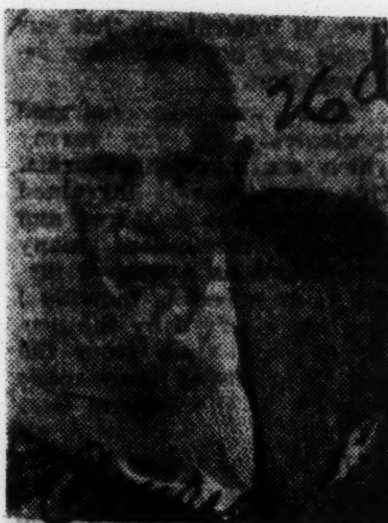
MRS. E. C. THORNHILL  
... mourned

Goodridge Hospital Auxiliary, the Southern and Dillard University Alumni Associations.

## MOURN THEIR LOSS

Two children, Mrs. Beryl Thornhill Sheldon and E. Charles Thornhill; one granddaughter, Joan Sheldon; two sisters, Mrs. Marguerite Marshall Maurice, New Orleans, and Mrs. Eleanora Marshall Lavigne, Los Angeles, Calif.; and a number of nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends mourn the loss of a mother, sister and friend.

Funeral services were held Nov. 5 from Central Congregational Church, the Rev. Nicholas Hood, pastor, in charge, assisted by two former pastors, the Revs. H. H. Dunn, under whose administration Mrs. Thornhill joined Central, and N. A. Holmes, her pastor for twenty-five years. Selections were rendered by the Central Choir, of which she had been a member.



POET W. C. HANDY, P. 9  
and, Courier agent of Mc-Minnville, Tenn., recent publisher of a book of poetry, is successful in distributing the book in every section of Tennessee.

## Verse

### THE DIFFERENCE

You cannot feel the way I feel  
For you are not a Negro  
There is no way to deal  
Though I be tramp or hero;  
No matter which way turns  
the wheel,  
You cannot feel the way I feel.

You cannot drink the way I  
You simply cannot do it,  
Nor can you drink the cup I  
drink  
With poison in and through  
it;  
That is the puzzle and the  
kink;  
You cannot drink the cup I  
drink.

You see, I'm black while you  
are white,  
You think in terms of color  
And I abhor your narrow  
plight  
For there is nothing duller  
You think unless a man is  
white,  
You are not bound to treat  
him right.

William Henry Huff  
(For ANP)

## To W. C. Handy

(NOTE: Andy Razaf, well-known songwriter has composed this tribute, for ANP, in honor of W. C. Handy's birthday anniversary appeal.)

(Daddy of the Blues)  
Hail to Handy, favorite son,  
Who has now turned eighty-one,  
Hail a marvel who appears  
To grow younger with the years  
Hail the good that he had done,  
And the honors he has won;  
Hail the man who never tires  
And the spirit he inspires!

God has given him the spark  
That can penetrate the dark,  
Blessed him with the magic art  
Of seeing people with his heart.

His birthday should bring to  
mind  
His Foundation for the Blind;  
Let us back it all the way,  
Send donations in today!

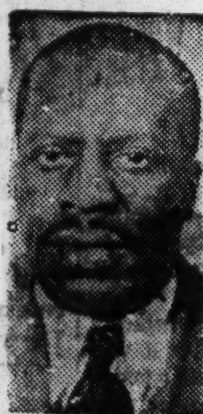
(Contributions should be sent to the Birthday Fund Committee, W. C. Handy Foundation for the Blind, Inc., 55 West 42nd St., New York, 36, N. Y.)

## THE TIP OFF

BY EMORY O. JACKSON

ALBANY, Ga. —(SNS)— "Poems For The Day" is the title of a delightful collection of creative outpourings produced by Harrison Edward Lee, principal of A. Speight High Fort Gaines, Ga.

Mr. Speight is a native of Talladega, Ala. and a B S degree graduate of Fort Valley State College. He also holds the M. A. degree from Atlanta University. He is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and of the Georgia Teachers and Education Association.



His book, published by Comet Press Books, 11 West 42nd Street, New York, N. Y., is priced at \$2. The jacket is done up beautifully. The 24-page book contains 30 poems touching upon a variety of subjects. No departure from tradi-

tional poetic patterns is ventured.

Mr. Lee says he "believes that though the poetic version of expressing ideas and ideals of American life of human justice, and of religious brotherhood among all mankind, one can truly feel the truth." Truth soaked in tears often renders tender the art. Art which echoes human longings and aches with the aspirations of the ages has a way of touching generation. Poetry is more than distilled sorrow; more than compressed joy; it is life caught up by a creator with the artistic power to communicate the message of the heart and of humanity. Poetry is humanity humming the music of the soul.

In his book Mr. Lee is described as "a personality dedicated . . . to better the relationship among men . . . the betterment of mankind." But is that the role of the poetry? Is poetry anything more than a lyrical conversation between the poet and his reader? If it cleans up on'e spirit and cheers his heart has not poetry served as a vehicle of the artistic enterprises?

Many of the poems collected in "Poems For The Day" have genuine merit. Some of the poems are a mixture of sense, sweetness and sensitiveness. Should sweetness and lessons be classified as sweetness and light? Lesson relayed by lyrics become poetry when they leap from the heart or boil up out of the soul.

In "Moonbeams" he yearns for it to  
"Shine on and on forever more.  
And give light to the rich man's  
castle  
And shine through my cottage  
door."

"My Democracy" brings from him the plea:  
"And all that I'm asking,  
Is, democracy, if you will.

This is not a racial quest. It is a universal demand. Democracy in this sense is a plea for freedom; an appeal to let one count for something; to recognize his worth as a human being. In my own heart the poet reports the unspoken utterances locked up in me. He ignites my soul and sets off a spiritual torch which burns on the inside of me. Poetry which awakens something within its reader hits its mark.

"The rich, the poor, the slave, the king  
So good seeds let us sow.  
That is what he writes in "Nature."

He reminds us of values. Had he made the message suggestive it would have had more penetrative power. Statement robs poetry of

Since this is National Book Week I decided to do this column on the poetic works of an Alabama-born writer. The book is worthy of a place in the family, school and community library. One should own it personally.

And 'makin' for you a livin'." A definition of poetry is given by Mr. Lee in a 16-line poem entitled "Poetry." He says:  
"Poetry is a feeling  
Put down in verse.  
He also has a poem entitled "What Poems Are Made For." Some of his other subjects deal with war, fear, peace, safety driving, blessings. And there is "My Last Chapter" a poem-type like "Crossing the Bar."

reader of the opportunity to join him in search for the truth. Poetry picks up artistic silent partners for the poet from among his headers. New uses of old subjects are made. An example of this is "The Farmer" written in half-tone dialect. This 12-verse poem has a double refrain.  
"Don't look down on me  
'Cause I'm a gardenin man

the creative stuff which suggestion gives to it. Yet it does not of itself destroy poetry which sets its message to music.  
I like the poem "Go Forward Teachers" in which he observes:  
"Some children can't help but cry."  
What are they crying for? It is light or freedom or fairplay? The poet does not dare answer and if he did it would have deprived the



## Principal-Poet

# Mississippi High School Head Scores

*Lat. 12-11-54*

CENTREVILLE, Miss. — "A Mississippian Salutes Northwestern" is the caption appearing on a folder issued by the department of human relations at the Finch High School, Wilkenson County's first institution to offer high school training to Negro youth.

The folder carries four poems from the pen of Principal Anselm J. Finch. Titles of the poems are "I Believe," "Northwestern Dear," "The Indispensable" and "Bells of Freedom."

From throughout America much praise has come to the author from many outstanding college and university presidents as well as business executives of both races.

Heeding the suggestion of a goodly number of admirers of the contribution to the field of poetry, Principal Finch has announced that music is being set to the poems "I Believe" and "Bells of Freedom" by a Boston music establishment and will be published by a music publishing house in New York.

Principal Finch is vice president of the Mississippi Teachers Association and member of Phi Delta Kappa Fraternity, a professional fraternity in education.

He is also author of the famed poem "I Am a Negro," which has been used by Jeanes supervisors throughout the South for several years. It was recently the spotlight of the King David Masonic Grand Lodge by oratorical contestants in annual session at Laurel. It was also carried recently in The Bulletin, official mouthpiece of the American Teachers Association.

So popular is "I Am a Negro" that students at the Prentiss Normal and Industrial will receive 500 copies shortly. This announcement was made on Thanksgiving Day at Prentiss and was met with thunderous applause of gratitude.

## Tenn. Barber Writes

### Religious Poem Book

*Defense*  
NEW YORK, N. Y. — Edward Uhlan, president of Exposition Press, New York, announced last week that Exposition will publish "War In Heaven and Other Poems" by Melvyn Love of Alcoa, Tenn.

The book pays lyrical tribute to some outstanding figures in American life, including George Washington Carver, Jackie Robinson, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln.

*Lat. 4-24-54*  
Melvyn Love wrote his first poem in Birmingham, Ala., in 1932. Since 1939 he has made his home in Alcoa, Tenn., with his wife, Emma, and son Melvyn, Jr.



26d 1954

## Publishers accept works of 3 poets

*Chicago Tribune*  
CHICAGO (A.N.P.) — Three poets have captured the literary spotlight in recent weeks with works that merit attention — Miss Margaret Cunningham, William Saunders and Mrs. Ethel Williams Wright.

Miss Cunningham, an editorial assistant of Poetry magazine, recently had a poem published in Poetry. Titled "Etta Moten's Attic," the poem describes the African flavor of the famed singer's attic.

*Sept 10 1954*  
WILLIAM SAUNDERS, a young factory worker, was named co-winner of the first annual award to poets of the Midwest, presented by Poetry magazine. Three of his poems appear in the November issue.

"O: Men and Trees" is the title of the first book of verse by Mrs. Wright, a school teacher in Vicksburg, Miss. Her poems have a universal rather than racial theme.





**Poetess**—Virsna Cagle, a recent graduate of the Blind, Deaf and Orphan School in Austin, Tex., is planning to study piano at UCLA, next year. Although partially blind, she has published a book of poetry.

To hand, also is "Into This Realm" poetry by Oliver F. Higgs (1968 1/2 W. • Twenty-third Street, Los Angeles 18, Calif., 35 pp., \$1.00). He has some very fine poems, as "Nest of Birds on Parade." Please support him by buying his book.

### Meditations

## Publish New Akins Poems In Defender

This week the women's section of the Defender launches a unique feature designed to appeal to lovers of poetry. It is called "Meditations in Rhyme," a series of illustrated poems by D. Conrad Akins.

Akins, a Chicagoan, is an artist, poet and lyricist of unusual abil-



D. CONRAD AKINS

ity. A ballad entitled "This Song" is scheduled for release this Fall.

The poems Akins will do for the Defender will be of several types—romantic, adventurous, humorous, philosophical. But each will be beautifully illustrated and certainly worth clipping and saving for re-reading.

The Defender would be glad to get response from readers about this new feature. You'll find the first poem on page 16 of this issue.



**PULITZER PRIZE WINNER**—Mrs. Evelyn Crawford Reynolds, of Philadelphia, Pa., has been nominated for the coveted Pulitzer Prize in poetry. Mrs. Reynolds book, "To No Special Land," was published in 1953 by Exposition Press and is described as reflecting a deep and warm feeling for humanity.

## Book Of Poems Nominated For The Pulitzer Prize

**PHILADELPHIA, Pa.** — A book of poems by Mrs. Evelyn Crawford Reynolds of this city, published in 1953 by Exposition Press of New York City, has been nominated for the coveted Pulitzer Prize, it has just been announced.

The famous prize set up by one of America's most distinguished journalists, Joseph Pulitzer, is administered annually by Columbia University and is awarded for poetry and four other classes of literature.

Mrs. Reynolds' book, "To No Special Land," is a collection of vibrant lyric verse which reflects a deep and warm feeling for humanity.

In announcing the nomination of Mrs. Reynolds' book and of 14 other Exposition Press books which have

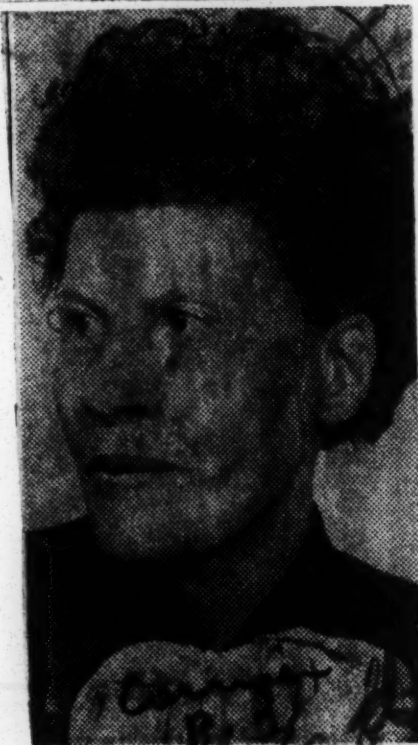


also been nominated, Edward Uh-  
lan publisher said: "I never cease to  
be amazed at the number of really  
worthwhile books that are passed  
up by publishers every year. These  
Pulitzer nominations are outstand-  
ing examples of books which might  
never have been published if Ex-  
position Press and the authors did  
not share a mutual faith in them."

Foreword to "To No Special Land,"  
written under Mrs. Reynold's pen  
name, Eve Lynn, is by Dr. Mary  
McLeod Bethune. Of these poems  
Mrs. Bethune says: "My apprecia-  
tion of this work is deep and sin-  
cere, and my prayers are that this  
kind of devotion, translated into  
poetic aspiration, may bring com-  
fort and hope to all who come with-  
in the ripple of its influence."

Mrs. Reynolds is the wife of the  
Hon. Hobson R. Reynolds, Grand  
Director of the Elks Department of  
Civil Liberties and well-known in  
Eastern Seaboard social and politi-  
cal affairs.

All branched from one creative stock  
God is our father, white or black.  
—D. Gatewood Thomas



**Poetical** Ethel  
Williams  
Wright of Vicksburg, Miss.,  
is author of a new book of  
poems, "Women and Trees,"  
being published by Ex-  
position Press, Inc. Mrs. Wright  
is a native of Mississippi  
and teaches at Natchez Col-  
lege.

## "An Hypothesis"

*Journal and  
Guide*

If I were white and you were black  
I wonder just how I would act,  
Would conscience suffer me to be  
The same to you as you to me;  
Or would I disregard the fact  
That I were white, and you were black?

*P. 3 26 d*

If I were white and you were black,  
Would I maliciously attack  
The common rights that are your due;  
Or would I think the same of you  
As of myself, and not retract,  
If I were white, and you were black?

*Norfolk Va.*

If I were white and you were black,  
Would I exploit the things you lack  
Or would I feel the brotherhood  
That God decreed each of us should,  
Then exercise the proper tact  
If I were white, and you were black.

*Sat. 10-23-54*

If I were white and you were black,  
Would I your prejudices pack,  
Or would I be sincerely just  
And thoughts of ME, be thoughts of us?  
I trust I would be that exact  
If I were white, and you were black.

5

If I were white and you were black,  
Would I subscribe to such a quack  
As race superiority,  
(Which is but cultural degree),  
Or segregation laws enact  
If I were white, and you were black?

6

If I were white and you were black,  
Should I, disdaining, turn my back?  
The Arab, Negro, Mongol, Jew  
Are of the human family too,



# LAY O' THE LAND



*at 4-10-54*  
**POEMS PUBLISHED — Mrs.**  
 Andrew Bright Payton,  
 home demonstration agent of  
 Chatham county, N. C., has  
 written a small book of  
 poems, "Lay O' the Land,"  
 which was published recent-  
 ly by the Chatham Negro  
 Home Demonstration Coun-  
 cil and the Pittsboro Farm  
 Bureau Women. Receipts  
 from the book will go to help  
 promote rural community  
 improvement in the county.  
 Mrs. Payton's poems have  
 been widely praised by North  
 Carolina newspapers. Her  
 office is in Pittsboro, N. C.  
 She is shown reading one of  
 her poems during her week-  
 ly broadcast.



26d 1954

LIBERETTO FOR THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA



**OKLAHOMA POET HONORED** — M. B. Tolson, professor of creative literature at Langston university, is shown autographing a copy of his "Liberetto for the Republic of Liberia" for Ambassador Simpson. In the preface of the book, which was published recently, Allen Tate pointed out, "For the first time, it seems to me, a Negro poet has assimilated completely the full poetic language of his time and, implication, the language of the Anglo-American poetic tradition." Tolson addressed high school seniors who were guests of Langston university, Tuesday, May 11.



26d 1954

TO NO SPECIAL LAND



*Ching. 2nd.*  
**PULITZER NOMINEE** — A book of poems by Mrs. Evelyn Crawford Reynolds of Philadelphia, Pa., has been nominated for the coveted Pulitzer Prize. Mrs. Reynolds' book, "To No Special Land," a collection of lyric verse which was published in 1953. Mrs. Reynolds is the wife of Hobson R. Reynolds, grand director of the Elks Department of Civil Liberties.



26d 1954

MELVIN B. TOLSON (POET)

## Liberia To Honor Post M. Tolson

WASHINGTON — The Liberian Embassy announced here this week that a literary tea will be held at the Embassy, Jan. 11 in honor of Melvin B. Tolson noted American Negro poet, on the occasion of publication of his "Libretto For The Republic of Liberia."

The volume, an epic commemorating the 100th year of the founding of the Republic of Liberia, was occasioned by Tolson's appointment as poet laureated for the Liberian Centennial, an honor Tolson shared with Duke Ellington who was appointed composer for the occasion.

A portion of the "Libretto" and Allen Tate's preface to the volume appeared before book publication in Poetry Magazine of Chicago. Tate had this to say in part:

"There is a great gift for language, a profound historical sense, and a first-rate intelligence at work in this poem from first to last. . . For the first time, it seems to me, a Negro poet has assimilated completely the full poetic language of his time and, by implication, the language of the Anglo-American poetic tradition."

Tolson is at present professor of creative literature at Langston university, Langston, Okla., where he directs the Dust Bowl Theatre.

Author of a previously published volume of poetry, Rendezvous with America, Tolson is the winner of numerous awards for his poetry. He has also successfully dramatized and staged Walter White's "The Fire in the Flint", which was recently staged before an audience of 5000 at the national convention of the NAACP in Okla., City.





**Knighted**—Langston University poet-laureate M. B. Tolson, holding parchment and wearing Star of Africa, after being knighted by Liberian Government for his poem, "Libretto for the Republic of Liberia." Ambassador Simpson stands with Tolson.

### Given Star of Africa

## Liberia Knights Langston U. Poet

LANGSTON, Okla.—Poet laureate M. B. Tolson, a Langston University professor, was knighted recently at impressive ceremonies by the Liberian Government for his epic poem, "Libretto for the Republic of Liberia."

Liberia's Ambassador Simpson presented the coveted Star of Africa, which carries the rank of officer of the Republic of Liberia, to Professor Tolson. He also received a parchment signed by President William Tubman of Liberia.

President Tubman knighted another American recently, Harvey S. Firestone Jr., president of the Firestone Corporation.

The New York Times called the Langston professor's poem the greatest so far written by an American Negro.

Ambassador Simpson, in honoring Professor Tolson, made the following statement:

"It is an accepted practice in all established institutions, whether private, national or international, that 'honor is given to whom honor is due.'

"In consonance with this principle, Liberia as the only Negro Republic in West Africa, considers itself indebted to a highly accomplished humanitarian of our race, Dr. M. B. Tolson, who has within our generation and time offered a new phase to the poetic works of Negroes as well as to the world."

"This occasion is being looked upon with great significance by Liberians, and is also regarded as being most unique. By significance, I mean, it is the first time that a Negro has contributed so highly to a well phrased lyric poem, entitled 'Libretto For The Republic of Liberia,' which has stood the test of literary criticism, and is dedicated to the progress of Liberia."

"On the other hand, it is most unique because the Government of Liberia has found it most gratifying to demonstrate its appreciation to a poet who so richly deserves the honor which it is my pleasure to bestow upon him on behalf of the Government and people of Liberia."

"By this token, the President of Liberia, who is also Grand Commander of the Star of Africa, has found it timely and appropriate to confer a distinction upon Dr. Tolson, which admits him to the Knighthood of the Order of the Star of Africa."



26d 1954

VIRGINIA S. NYABONGO

### Normandy Beachhead

*26d*  
Crosses at Caen,  
Crosses at Bayeux,  
Crosses all over the land  
Recall that the war,  
The Battle of Normandy  
With blood, sweat  
And tears *won*,  
And slow was the march  
Of liberation  
Amid ruins and despair  
From Ranville, Saint-Lô,  
Omaha Beach, Courseulles,  
And Colleville-sur-Mer  
To the Arch of Triumph.

VIRGINIA SIMMONS  
NYABONGO

Nashville, Tenn.

### Niagara

Thrilled man beholds  
the surging, sparkling falls,  
Enraptured hears  
the liquid harmonies  
The heavenly blue mist exalts,  
enthalls  
With *thunderous*,  
oracular symphonies  
And wondrous, joyous  
sky-born prophecies.  
Eternal are God's messages  
and songs  
For such ecstasies  
the soul of man longs.

VIRGINIA S. NYABONGO  
Nashville, Tenn.